Friday,
22nd March, 1957

LOK SABHA DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1957

(19th March to 28th March, 1957)

FIFTEENTH SESSION, 1957

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Friday, 22nd March, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Portuguese Settlements in India

*46 { **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** **Shri Kamath:**

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change in the stand taken by the Government of Portugal regarding the peaceful transfer of Goa and other Portuguese settlements in India to the Government of India; and

(b) whether the Egyptian envoy who is looking after the Indian interests in Goa has given any report regarding the condition of prisoners in the jails of Goa?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No.

(b) The First Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy in New Delhi visited Goa, Daman and Diu during January 1957 in connection with the protection of Indian interests in those territories and submitted a report which *inter alia* also contains information regarding the condition of the Indian prisoners in Goan jails.

Of the 41 Indian prisoners who were in jail or in detention inside Goa in January 1957, 34 have been released on the basis of a general amnesty granted by the Portuguese authorities.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know for how long this deadlock will continue and what effective steps Government propose to take to solve the problem?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid I am not in a position to say how long this will continue.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the Egyptian envoy has given any report regarding the general conditions of the people there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In my answer, I have already indicated that he has submitted a full report about the conditions.

Shri Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (b) of the question, is it not a fact that the reports that the Government used to receive about the treatment and condition of Indian prisoners in Goa from the Egyptian Embassy now seem to be at variance with the truth as narrated by our colleague, Shri T. K. Chaudhuri, in the House day before yesterday?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The first Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy made enquiries and on the basis of his own findings, he sent his report to us.

Shri Kamath: Did the First Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy ever represent to Government that the Portuguese authorities there would not or did not give him access to the real sources of information about the prisoners in Goa?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: He made pretty exhaustive enquiries and the report is a very detailed one.

Shri Kamath: Is it going to be laid on the Table?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No. I am afraid it cannot be laid.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government have any plan to have a new approach to this problem, in view of the facts given by Shri T. K. Chaudhuri?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a very general question; it is very difficult for me to answer it by way of a supplementary question, because it is an important matter.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The point is this. There is an hon. Member of this House who has given his personal experiences. Therefore, may I know whether the Government is considering that aspect of the question to see whether some of the difficulties experienced by the Indian prisoners in Goa can be removed and better facilities given to them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The first Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy has already written to the Governor-General in Goa referring to the difficulties and the grievances of the Indian prisoners there.

Low Shaft Furnaces at Salem

*47. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for setting up low shaft furnaces at Salem to make pig iron have been examined;

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to export Salem iron ore to Japan?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No such proposal for setting up low shaft furnaces at Salem is under consideration at present. But such a scheme has been sanctioned for production of 15,000 tons of pig iron per annum at Coimbatore, based on Salem iron ore.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For purposes of export, no distinction is made between iron ore of Salem and that of other regions in the country; proposals for export of iron ore to Japan are under consideration of the Government of India and the Government of Japan.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is the scheme referred to in answer to part (a) of the question in the private sector or the public sector? May I know also if there is going to be a ceiling upon the capacity of the plant in the private sector and if so, what is the ceiling?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This plant is in the private sector; the ceiling is 15,000 tons a year.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the capital outlay of such a plant and when is it expected to start working?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The plant would cost about Rs. 30 lakhs and may start functioning in two to three years.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If a licence is sought for setting up such a plant in Salem itself instead of in Coimbatore, will the licence be granted?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be duly considered when received.

Shri P. C. Bose: Is iron ore being produced in Salem at present?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Actually mining of Salem iron ore deposits has not started on any substantial scale. Most of the mining is of the Sandur deposits in Mysore and Madhya Pradesh deposits.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the agency for mining of the iron ore in the private sector? Or, will Government take any steps in regard to it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It depends on different proposals. The general

policy now with regard to major minerals is that most of them will be in the public sector; but, individual proposals are considered on their own merits.

Shri Heda: May I know how much iron ore are exporting to Japan or other countries? Is the proposed plant adequate to exploit all the resources or will some more plant be necessary?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This plant is not for producing iron ore; it is for the conversion of iron ore into pig iron. As far as iron ore exported to different countries is concerned, in 1953 we were exporting about 11 lakhs tons; last year, it has risen to about 18 lakhs tons.

Hindustan Housing Factory

*50. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken with regard to the future of the Hindustan Housing Factory Delhi; and

(b) if so, what it is?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The future working of the Factory is still under review and a decision is expected to be taken very shortly. Since 16th August, 1955, the Factory has been run by Government as an interim measure and the results are not considered to be unsatisfactory.

Shri Kamath: What has been the total loss to the public exchequer or rather to the poor tax-payer, since the inception of the factory in 1948 or perhaps 1949 up-to-date?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This point has been discussed here in this House at the time of the debates and in reply to various questions. If a separate question is put, then these figures can be collected and the total can be given.

Shri Kamath: Has the Hindustan Housing Factory produced or built up-to-date a single house in Hindustan, and if so, where and how many?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The factory is now engaged in manufacturing prestressed and pre-cast concrete and also wood work. The intention is not to produce or manufacture complete houses, but components.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister has said that since August, 1955 the factory has been run by Government and the results are not unsatisfactory. Could we know whether Government expect that the reults will be positively satisfactory any of these days?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I should think so. To give a complete picture, during this period the pre-stressed and pre-cast concrete department of the factory executed orders to the extent of Rs. 13.54 lakhs, as against orders of the same value under the previous management spread over a period of 2 years and 4 months. In the wood work department, the factory has given orders worth Rs. 14 lakhs during the year and orders worth a similar amount are in hand, which should keep the factory busy till the end of March, 1957. In the foam concrete department, the factory executed orders worth Rs. 2:3 lakhs during the year as against orders worth Rs. 1:23 lakhs executed over a period of two years and four months by the previous management.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know whether these orders which were executed were given by Government departments or they were given by Government departments or they were given by some commercial concerns?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Both.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know whether the cost of production for these outurns was nearly double that in any commercial concern?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is wrong. It is quite comparable with

the cost that may be incurred by any commercial department.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that contrary to the statement made by the Minister just now in answer to my question that in 1949 when the factory was set up in Delhi, the Minister in charge and the Prime Minister stated that the intention was to build houses in Delhi and elsewhere and if so, when was the intention changed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a historical thing about which Shri Kamath knows quite a bit. He has been agitating it....

Shri Kamath: You were not here at that time.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I was not here. Nor was he here throughout the period.

Shri Kamath: I was here.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Throughout the period, I said. But, this point has been examined and discussed time and again and the position has been explained that the original intention could not be carried out.

Former French Settlements

†

*51 { **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** **Shri Wodeyar:**

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 4 on the 14th November, 1956, and state at what stage is the matter regarding ratification of the *de jure* transfer of the former French Settlements in India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments of Pondicherry, Karikal, Yanam and Mahe, which was signed on the 28th May, 1956, has not yet been ratified by the Government of France. The French Parliament is expected to discuss this question soon; the *de jure* transfer of these establishments to the Indian Union will take place after the French Government has ratified this Treaty.

Shri Krishnamachary Joshi: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report that the French Union Assembly has voted against the ratification of the Indo-French Treaty?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. We are informed that the Council of the Union of France has no legislative powers. It is merely an advisory body.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether any fresh proposal has been made for a fresh Treaty?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: That question does not arise because the Treaty has yet to be ratified or not ratified by the French Parliament. The French Government have not yet taken necessary steps in the matter.

Shri Wodeyar: Is the delay due to France being influenced by foreign nations?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is not for me to say why there has been delay in the French Government.

Shri B. S. Murthy: On a former occasion it was said that *de jure* transfer was a matter of course. Now, the Minister is saying that there must be another discussion. May I know whether there are any outstanding questions to be dicussed for this final transfer?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a question of ratification of the Treaty. That ratification has not yet taken place. The last time we replied to such a question, we said that we are informed by the French Government that they would take up this question very soon. Unfortunately, it has not yet been done.

Shri Kamath: The general elections are practically over in India. Has the Government taken a decision as to whether soon after ratification of this Treaty by France and India, elections would be held in Pondicherry and other former French settlements in India so as to afford proper representation to them in Parliament?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a very hypothetical question. Ratification has not yet taken place.

Shri Kamath: I did not follow.

Mr. Speaker: The decision has not yet been taken. Next question.

Neiveli Lignite Project

*52. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the position at present in the Neiveli Lignite Project?

Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): Government have approved in principle the Integrated Lignite Project and have specifically sanctioned the mining part of the Project at an estimated cost of about Rs. 17 crores. Orders for conventional and specialised equipment valued at about Rs. 5·5 crores have already been placed.

The site for the first mine cut has been selected and work is expected to start in May this year.

A Project Report for the 200,000 KW Thermal Power Station has been prepared by the Central Water & Power Commission. The planning work for the Fertiliser Unit and the Briquetting Plant is in hand.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it a fact that under-water pressure has been completely brought under control and the stage is now set for extracting lignite?

Shri Satish Chandra: It has been stated several times before in this House that the test carried out to control under-water have proved successful by determining the quantity of water to be pumped out. What we are now immediately aiming at is to get machinery for the mining part of the project so that the removal of over-burden can start immediately.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Unless under water pressure is completely controlled and there is technical assurance that it can be so controlled, what would be the point in ordering the machinery? That is the assurance that I seek from the hon. Minister.

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, Sir. The technical advice is that it can be fully controlled.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether a qualified Mining Engineer has been appointed to take charge of the mine and if so whether the Engineer is an Indian or a foreigner?

Shri Satish Chandra: Negotiations are going on with a foreign concern and they are expected to be finalised very soon.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Which are the foreign countries that are giving technical advice in this matter?

Shri Satish Chandra: The underground problem was investigated with the assistance of Powell Dufferil Technical Services, U.K. whose services were originally obtained under the Technical Co-operation Scheme.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: For the work to be done hereafter, which are the countries that give technical assistance?

Shri Satish Chandra: There would be Technical consultants for different parts of the project. Which part is the hon. Member referreing to?

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the project report has been finalised. I want to know whether the test drilling in the area has been completed and if so, whether it would be possible to spare the machinery for test drilling for the Varkala project for which drilling has not commenced for want of machinery.

Shri Satish Chandra: The machinery is not only for test drilling. It has to be actually employed and a large number of bore-holes will have to be put in for actual mining operations to start.

Shri V. P. Nayar: My question was whether the machinery required for

test drilling used at Neiveli can be spared for test drilling in Varkala where the project has already been sanctioned.

Shri Satish Chandra: I said that this machinery will be required at Neiveli itself and more machinery will be required for the purpose, because, more bore-holes will have to be put in.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know what quantity of machinery has been received so far? May I also know whether there is any truth in the talk that the progress of this project has been slowed down?

Shri Satish Chandra: The order for conventional machinery was placed a few months ago. It is expected that all the conventional type of machinery which are readily available shall be delivered on the spot by April or in a month or two and the actual mining operations will start in May.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The second part of my question, Sir. There is a talk that the progress of the project has been slowed down. Is there any truth in it?

Shri Satish Chandra: On the other hand, it is gaining momentum.

Demonstrations in Pakistan

*54. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent months a number of demonstrations were held in East and West Pakistan when the Kashmir question was being discussed in the Security Council;

(b) whether any damage was done to the Indian High Commissioner's Office there;

(c) whether Government had lodged a protest to the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whether any reply has been received so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Hyderabad, the demonstrators stoned the residence of the Assistant High Commissioner for India as a result of which glass panes of the windows on the upper floor were smashed. The demonstrators at Lahore hurled stones and shoes at the flag mast at the residence of the Indian Deputy High Commissioner. One stone hit the porch light.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have lodged strong protests with the Government of Pakistan against the demonstrations. The Pakistan Government's reply is still awaited.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the police was posted to control the demonstrators or not? If the answer is in the affirmative, may I know whether they controlled the situation?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The police controlled the situation in some places, but in Hyderabad nither the police nor the civil authorities did anything to keep off the demonstrators.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether Pakistani officials attended the reception given by our High Commissioner?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No. Sir.

Shri Kamath: Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to tell the House whether the Nehru-Liaqat Ali Pact or agreement of the 8th April, 1950 which frowned upon or rather tabooed all hostile or war propaganda on either side has been repuliated or is dead for all practical purposes so far as Pakistan is concerned?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan:. There has been no repudiation of this pact by the Pakistan Government, that is to say the pact is there.

Shri Kamath: What is the attitude of the India Government towards this pact?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan:. We adhere to the pact.

Shri Kamath: Has the Pakistan Government ever communicated to India their attitude towards the pact, whether they have repudiated it partly or wholly?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan:. No, Sir. They have not repudiated the pact.

श्री भक्त दर्शन: क्या गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि पाकिस्तान में अब दिन ये जो मुजाहिरे प्रदर्शन होते रहते हैं उन से भारतीय जनता में बहुत बुरी प्रतिक्रिया हो रही है और असन्तोष फैल रहा है । क्या इसकी ओर पाकिस्तान का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया है और क्या उस का कोई प्रभाव पड़ा है

श्री साबत अली खां: जाहिर है कि पाकिस्तान में जो इस किस्म की हरकतें होती हैं उन का बहुत बुरा असर होता है पाकिस्तान गवर्नमेंट उस पर तवज्जह करे या न करे यह उसका अपना काम है ।

Shri U. M. Trivedi:. On account of this Kashmir agitation which is going on in Pakistan, infiltration of any number of Pakistani nationals into India has begun and every day arrests are being carried out in Punjab. Has the Government taken any steps to stop this infiltration?

Mr. Speaker:. How does it arise out of this?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I want notice.

Mr. Speaker: He wants notice.

Shri Kamath: At the various conferences that have been held between India and Pakistan since that date, namely 8th April, 1950, at ministerial or other governmental level, has the question of that pact ever come up for discussion, and if so, what was the attitude taken up by both the Governments in regard to that pact?

Mr. Speaker:. How does it arise?

Shri Kamath:. Because there are hostile demonstrations, hostile propaganda. You allowed the previous question. This is a corollary to the other question.

Mr. Speaker:. But I cannot go on allowing irrelevant questions. I allowed one or two questions merely out of curiosity.

Mr. Speaker: Shri T. B. Vittal Rao. Absent. The Question List is over. Now I will call the absentee Members again. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao, Shri A. K. Gopalan, Shri T. B. Vittal Rao, Shri T. B. Vittal Rao.

Coir Industry

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I request that Question 49 in the name of Shri A. K. Gopalan may be taken up?

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Question 49.

*49. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolutions passed by a Conference of coir factory-owners, coir co-operations and workers in the coir industry held at Quilon on the 17th February, 1957, drawing attention to the urgent problems of coir industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government and the Coir Board have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The resolutions have been received by the Government only a few days ago and they are under examination.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Apart from these resolutions regarding Kerala, may I know whether there is any scheme for helping the coir workers in other parts of India, especially in Andhra where the coir industry is now languishing?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. Under the Coir Development Scheme all parts of India will be paid attention, and the coir industry everywhere is going to be helped.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Minister is able to say what special provision is being made for Andhra?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Particularly for Andhra has elsewhere, formation of co-operative societies, also loan assistance to societies and marketing and export promotion have already been stipulated in the Second Five Year Plan.

Seniority List of Posts and Telegraphs Employees

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The hon. Minister may be asked to reply to Question 53. It is of general importance to postal employees.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

*53. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the *inter se* seniority list of employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the Hyderabad Postal Circle has since been compiled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the same is likely to be compiled?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. It is under check with diglott calendars before issue.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The list is expected to be published by the end of May, 1957.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say how long actually it has taken to tabulate this whole thing?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Orders were passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs as late as 4-8-1956 and then circulated to all heads of circles on 22-8-56. Action is being taken thereunder meanwhile.

Shri B. S. Murthy: When the Capital of Andhra has been fixed as Hyderabad, why is this Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs still kept in Kurnool?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not know how it arises out of this.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise. The Question List is over.

Shri Kamath: On a point of order. In the public interest, may I once again earnestly request you to give your careful and serious consideration to the point I raised yesterday so that this House might avail itself of it in the coming week, because the Question Hour is always important. The Question List is over usually early. So that we may utilise the full hour, you might direct that the unstarred questions may also be answered.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I am not prepared to have a general practice of that kind. Then there is no meaning in putting starred and unstarred. I cannot make an exception merely because hon. Members are not taking sufficient interest in this session.

Shri Kamath: That is because of the General Election.

Mr. Speaker: May be. Therefore, there is no meaning in saying what is unstarred ought to be made starred. I have already said yesterday that if any particular question which has been converted as unstarred is of such importance that it ought to be answered on the floor of the House, the hon. Member who tabled that question can write to me. I shall try to revise my opinion. Of course, time permitting, I shall certainly try to allow. Therefore, there cannot be a general rule to that effect.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Posts and Telegraphs Staff Quarters

*48. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has since been acquired for the construction of quarters for Posts and Telegraphs employees in Hyderabad city; and

(b) if so, when the construction work will be taken up?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Acquisition proceedings are in progress; construction will be taken up as soon as land is taken possession of and the building estimate also sanctioned.

Posts and Telegraphs Training Centre, Hyderabad

*55. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction of a Departmental building for housing the Posts and Telegraphs Training Centre at Hyderabad City will be taken up; and

(b) when it is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bhaadur): .(a). Construction will not be taken us for the present as due to financial considerations and especially the large capital cost involved, the question of opening large residential P. & T. Centres in various regions has had to be deferred. At present training is being carried out in special non-residential centres opened in the various Circles.

(b) Does not arise.

Border Incidents

14. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of border clashes and exchange of firing between Indian and Pakistani border patrols during 1956 and 1957 so far; and

(b) the nature of such incidents and the loss or damage caused thereby?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Du.ing the period 1st January 1956 to 15th February 1957, there were at least 21 incidents in which exchange of firing took place. (This figure does not include any incident which might have occurred during the period from the 1st January to 15th February 1957 on the borders along Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Bombay States, information about which is still awaited).

(b) The incidents occurred because of Pakistani attempts to steal cattle or take forcible possession of undemarcated territory which they held to be in dispute or because of trespass which, later, appeared to have been inadvertent.

Pilgrims from Pakistan

15. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims from Pakistan who attended the Urs at Ajmer this year; and

(b) the facilities provided for the pilgrims by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Information is awaited from the Rajasthan Government. It will be placed on the table of the House when received.

Employment Exchanges

16. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were given employment through Employment Exchanges during the First Five Year Plan;

(b) how many of them were retrenched personnel;

(c) how many skilled persons applied through Employment Exchanges but could not be given any employment during the same period; and

(d) the percentage of employment given to the total number registered?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): (a) 12,32,175.

(b) 1,28,122 (including 80,253 ex-service personnel).

(c) This information is not available.

(d) 16.7 per cent.

Coal Mines Regulations

17. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations and decisions of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mines which met during August, 1956;

(b) if so, the nature of action initiated;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an Industrial Committee on mines other than Coal Mines; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be set up?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing action initated is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 16.]

(c) Yes.

(d) As soon as the personnel of the Committee are decided.

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LOK SABHA

Friday, 22nd March, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11.24 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT OF CASES SHOWING LOWEST TENDERS NOT ACCEPTED

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement of cases in which lowest tenders have not been accepted by the India Store Department, London, during the year ended the 31st December, 1956. [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 17]

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): With regard to this item, so far as I am aware, the practice has been to lay on the Table an explanatory statement also along with the main statement giving reasons why the lowest tenders were not accepted. I do not know whether this has been done in this case. That is the practice in this House so far as I can recollect.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Whatever is the practice has been followed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member will kindly look into the statement.

Shri Kamath: In the Order Paper itself it used to appear "along with an explanatory statement". That is missing here.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know. Possibly that is contained in the statement itself. Hon. Member will kindly look into it and then bring it to the notice of the House.

REPORT OF ALUMINIUM COMMITTEE

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Aluminium Committee. [*Placed in the Library. See* No. S-55/57.]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 1957, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1957."

BILL, AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA, LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary: Sir, I lay the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the Table of the House.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Reports

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Reports of the Estimates Committee on the action taken by Government on the recommendations

contained in the Fifth and Eighth Reports of the Committee.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that the following two Members have resigned their seats in the Lok Sabha:

1. Dr. Edward Paul Mathuram—with effect from the 21st March, 1957 (Forenoon).

2. Shri Debeswar Sarmah—with effect from the 21st March, 1957 (Afternoon).

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL*, 1957

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce the Bill.**

APPROPRIATION †BILL, 1957

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57."

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. C. Shah: I introduce the Bill.††

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL*, 1957

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1953, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1953, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year".

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 22-3-57, pp. 9—11.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 22-3-57, pp. 12—15.

††Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

‡Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 22-3-57, pp. 16—18.

The motion was adopted.

‡‡

Shri M. C. Shah: I introduce the Bill.

KERALA APPROPRIATION BILL*

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the service of the period beginning on the 1st day of November, 1956, and ending on the 31st day of March, 1957.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the service of the period beginning on the 1st day of November, 1956 and ending on the 31st day of March, 1957".

The motion was adopted.

**

Shri M. C. Shah: I introduce the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume the general discussion of the General Budget.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was in possession of the House. He may continue his speech now.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव (गुड़गांव): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल मैं अर्ज कर रहा था कि अभी अभी जो इलैक्शंस हो कर चुके हैं उतमें मैम्बर साहिबान को नए नए तजुर्बे हासिल हुए होंगे ।

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I request my hon. friend to resume his seat for a minute? I would like to seek some direction and enlightenment from the Chair in regard to the programme of the House.

The Business Advisory Committee has allotted 10 hours for the discussion of the Budget, 5 hours for the Demands for Grants on Account and the Appropriation Bill, and 1 hour for the Finance Bill, making in all 16 hours. I think we have spent about an hour yesterday. But I find from the Order Paper for Monday that we are taking up the foreign affairs debate on that day. I would like to know what the programme will be in regard to the Budget.

Mr. Speaker: We are sitting tomorrow also.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Are we sitting tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. We are sitting tomorrow also. We are sitting till six o' clock today, and this discussion will go on up to 3.30 P.M. That means that we shall have about four hours today. Six hours remain, and we have them tomorrow. I think we can finish this tomorrow.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: But the time allotted for the discussion of the Demands for Grants on Account and the Appropriation Bill is 5 hours.

Mr. Speaker: That will stand over, unless Government are willing to have it earlier. I leave it to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Finance Minister. It is for them to decide.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position seems to be that the Business Advisory Committee has given time far in excess of what is available between now and the 28th inst. That is a matter which I would respectfully point out so that the Chair might look into it.

Mr. Speaker: This matter was considered, and that is why the Business Advisory Committee recommended

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 22-3-57, pp. 19—23.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

‡‡ Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Speaker]

that every day we may sit one hour more, and we may also sit on this Saturday. We thought that by doing so we shall be able to reach 42 hours, whereas according to the programme before us we wanted 42½ hours. We thought we may be able to save half an hour on some item. We are trying to sit even late. We shall finish it on the 28th inst.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Thank you.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि मैम्बर साहिबान को कई नए तजुर्बे इन एलैक्शंस में हासिल हुए होंगे। तकरीबन तमाम मैम्बर साहिबान अपनी अपनी कांस्टीट्युएंसीस का दौरा करके वापिस आए हैं और उनके दिलों पर जो हालात उन्होंने वहां देखे हैं, उनके असरात ताजा होंगे और उनको वे इस हाउस में भी जाहिर कर चुके हैं। मैं इस मौके का फायदा उठाकर दो तीन बातों की तरफ इस हाउस का ध्यान खास तौर पर दिलाना चाहता हूं। इस जिम्न में सब से पहला जो सवाल मेरे सामने है वह रूरल हाउसिंग का है। मुझे याद है कि एक मौके पर मेरी कंस्टिट्युएंसी के कुछ भंगियों ने मुझे अपने मकान पर बुलाया और मेरे सामने एक सावल पेश किया। उन्होंने कहा कि आप सब लोग पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर भी और बहार भी हर रोज यह कहते हो कि अपने सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी का उसूल मंजूर कर लिया है। हर पार्टी वाले इस पर इत्तिफाक करते हैं कि वे इस देश के अन्दर गुरबत नहीं रहने देंगे, वे इस देश के अन्दर खराब मकानात नहीं रहने देंगे। इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने मुझे अपने मकानात दिखलाये जिनमें मैं पहले भी अच्छी तरह वाकिफ था और उन हालात का मैं इस हाउस में कई बार पहले भी जिक्र कर चुका हूं। इस मौके पर उनके मकानात को देखकर मुझे यह नजर आया कि आज भी यह पार्लियामेंट कुछ कर सकती है। इसका जिक्र मैंने उस वक्त भी किया था जब कि सैकिंड फाईव यीर प्लान पर कमिटियां बैठी थीं और जिन्होंने इस प्लान पर बहस की थी। हमारे श्री टंडन जो, इस वक्त इस हाउस में मौजूद नहीं हैं, ने एक दफा कहा था कि वह चाहते हैं कि हर एक आदमी को आधा एकड़ जमीन मकान बनाने के लिए, गार्डन बनाने के लिए तथा दूसरी जरूरियात को पूरा करने के लिए दी जाए। मैं समझता हूं कि इतनी ज्यादा जमीन देना हमारे लिए बहुत मुश्किल है। अगर हमने ऐसा किया तो हमारे पास बहुत ही थोड़ी जमीन बच रहेगी और हो सकता है कि हम हर एक को इतनी ज्यादा जमीन दे भी न सकें। इस चीज को देखते हुए मैंने यह तजवीज पेश की थी कि हर एक रूरल फैमिली को और खास तौर से शैडयूल्ड कास्ट फैमिलीज को एक एकड़ का १/८वां हिस्सा जमीन का अवश्य ही दिया जाना चाहिये। कई लोगों के पास अपने मकानात हैं और कईयों के पास नहीं भी हैं। कई लोगों के पास इतनी जमीन है, कईयों के पास इससे ज्यादा है और कइयों के पास इससे भी कम है। तो जिन लोगों के पास इतनी जमीन से कम जमीन है उनको और जमीन दे दी जाए और जिनके पास ज्यादा है उनसे वापिस भी आप ले सकते हैं क्योंकि हाउसिंग के वास्ते जमीन वापिस लेना मेरे ख्याल में मुश्किल नहीं होना चाहिये। मैं जानता हूं कि रूरल हाउसिंग के बारे में अगर यह हाउस कुछ करना चाहे तो हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब एक दम उछल पड़ेंगे और कहेंगे कि इसके लिए तो अरबों और खरबों रुपये की आवश्यकता होगी। इतना रुपया वह कहां से लायेंगे। यह दुरुस्त है। लेकिन मैं कोई ऐसी तजवीज पेश नहीं करना चाहता जिससे कि हमारे फाइनेंस पर बहुत ज्यादा स्ट्रेन पड़े और जिसको हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब सहन न कर सकें। मैं समझता हूं कि अगर एक एकड़ का १/८वां हिस्सा एक एक फैमिली को दिया जाए तो इससे बहुत ज्यादा स्ट्रेन

नहीं पड़ेगा और इसका हम कुछ न कुछ इंतजाम कर ही सकते हैं। इस के साथ साथ हम यह भी करें कि हर एक प्रोविंस में पांच गांव माडल गांव, नमूने के तौर पर बनवायें और लोगों को प्रोत्साहन दें कि वे भी इसी तरह के गांव बसायें और इस तरह के मकान बनायें।

हमने सैकिंड फाइव इयर प्लान में केवल २०० करोड़ रुपया हाउसिंग की खातिर रखा है जो मैं समझता हूं कि किसी को भी टच नहीं कर सकता। इसके वास्ते तो खरबों रुपये की जरूरत है अरबों रुपए का तो कहना ही क्या। मैं कोई ऐसी तजवीज पेश करना नहीं चाहता जो इम्प्रेक्टिकेबल हो। मैं वही तजवीज पेश करूंगा जो प्रेक्टिकेबल हो। यह जो तजवीज मैंने पेश की है यह प्रेक्टिकेबल है और हमारे सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी के उसूल के साथ अच्छी तरह से मेल खाती है। मैं चाहता हूं कि कम से कम हर एक आदमी को रहने के लिए एक ऐसा मकान तो मिले जिससे कि वह कह सके कि मैं ठीक तरह से रहता हूं। सैकिंड फाइव इयर प्लान कमिटी का मैंने जिक्र किया है। उस कमिटी में मैंने कहा था कि गुड़गांव के नजदीक एक गांव में ११०० गज के अन्दर तकरीबन सौ से ज्यादा मकान बने हुए थे। जब वहां पर डिप्टी कमिश्नर साहब गए तो उन लोगों ने उस से प्रार्थना की कि उनको कुछ जमीन मकान बनाने के लिए कंसालिडेशन स्कीम के अन्दर दे दी जाए। उन्होंने इस चीज को पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के सामने पेश किया और कंसौलिडेशन के वक्त बहुत सी जमीन का इंतिजाम उनके लिए कर दिया गया। इतना ही काफी नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की कोई स्कीम सारे हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर लागू की जाए। इस पार्लियामेंट को सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाईटी के उसूल को अमल में लाने के लिए सब से पहली चीज जो करनी चाहिये वह यही होनी चाहिए। हमें चाहिये कि हम हर एक फैमिली को इतनी जमीन दे दें जिस पर मकान बना कर वह आराम से रह सके और साथ ही थोड़ी सी जमीन उसको फालतू मिल जाए। तो यह जो पांच सौ या छः सौ गज जमीन एक फैमिली को देने की बात मैंने कही है, यह कोई ज्यादा नहीं है और इसके अन्दर आपका कोई ज्यादा खर्च भी नहीं होने वाला है। अगर सोशलिस्टिक पैटर्न आफ सोसाईटी की स्थापना की तरफ आप यह कदम उठायेंगे तो यह एक मुनासिब कदम होगा। यहां पर तजवीजें होती हैं कि आमदनी मुकर्रर कर दी जाए, बहुत से लोगों की जमीनें खरीद ली जायें लेकिन ये अमल में नहीं आती हैं। जो तजवीज मैंने पेश की है इस पर अमल होना भी आसान है बशर्ते कि सही मानों में हम इसको कामयाब करना चाहते हैं। अगर ऐसा किया गया तो देश के अन्दर एक रेवोल्यूशनरी स्पिरिट पैदा हो जाएगी और लोग यह महसूस करेंगे कि फिलवाका इसे पार्लियामेंट ने एक ऐसा काम किया है जिस के लिए यह मुबारिकबाद की मुस्तहिक है। एक मौके पर मैं अपनी कंस्टीटयूएंसी में गया। एक हरिजन बुढ़िया ने मुझे एक कोठा दिखाया और मुझे कहने लगी कि इसके अन्दर कहां मैं अपने डंगरों को बांध सकती हूं और कहां मैं रह सकती हूं। उसके पास केवल एक कोठा ही थी। यह एक मिसाल ही नहीं है, इस तरह की करोड़ों मिसालें आपको मिल जायेंगी। हमारे देश में लोग ऐसी ऐसी जगहों में रहते हैं जिनमें कि और मुल्कों में शायद जानवर भी नहीं रखे जाते हैं। अगर आप हिन्दुस्तान में तरक्की होती देखना चाहते हैं तो यह सब से पहला काम है जो आपको करना चाहिये। मैं अदब से अर्ज करता हूं कि मेरी इस स्पीच को आप ऐसे ही मजाक में न उड़ा दें बल्कि इसको सीरियसली लें और इस पर सीरियसली गौर करें इसको अमल में लाने की कोशिश करें।

इस वक्त मैं रिहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में भी एक बात अर्ज करना

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

चाहता हूं। मैं कितनी ही जगहों पर गया हूं और खासतौर पंजाब में तो बहुत जगहों पर गया हूं और वहां पर मैंने देखा है कि रिफ्यूजीज के पास मकानों की कमी है जिस की वजह से उनको बड़ी तकलीफ का सामना करना पड़ता है। वे किराया भी पूरा देने को तैयार हैं लेकिन कितने ही छोटे छोटे शहर हैं जिनमें उनको मकानात नहीं मिलते और वह बड़ी तकलीफ में रहते हैं और बहुत सस्त कंजेशन है। इसका सही इलाज यह है कि जहां इवेकुई लैंड्स मौजूद हैं वह इवेकुई लैंड्स उनको दे दी जायें मुनासिब कीमत पर ताकि वे अपने मकानात बना सकें। मैंने एक ऐसी कालोनी की तजवीज होडल के बारे में आनरेबुल रिहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्टर की खिदमत में पेश की थी अब फतेहबाद जिला हिसार के लिये एक तजवीज पेश करना चाहता हूं—मैं चाहता हूं कि उस उसूल को मान लें कि इवकुई लैंड का इससे अच्छा इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकता कि लोगों को मकान बनाने के वास्ते वह जमीनें दे दी जायें। मैं यह नहीं चाहता कि वह जमीनें उनको मुफ्त दी जायें और आपके खजाने पर और आपका जो पूल है उस पर खराब असर पड़े। मैं तो चाहता हूं कि मुनासिब कीमत पर कालोनी बनाने के वास्ते उनको जमीनें दी जायें और उनको माडेल मकान बनाकर दे दिये जायें।

मैं यह भी चाहता हूं कि १०,००० रुपये तक के जिन लोगों के क्लेम्स प्राएरिटी लिस्ट पर आ गये हैं, उनको वह जमीनें फौरन दे दी जायें जो अपने मकान उन पर बनाना चाहते हैं। इसका फायदा यह होगा कि आज जो मकानों की कमी है वह दूर हो जायेगी और वे लोग आराम से रह सकेंगे।

स हाउस में कुछ अर्सा हुआ यह ऐक्ट पास किया गया था कि अगर रिहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्टर को किसी अराजी को ऐक्वायर करने की जरूरत हो तो उसके प्राविजन के मुताबिक वह अराजी का ऐक्वायर कर सकता है, मुनासिब कीमत और उचित मुआविजा जमीन वाले को दे कर जमीन ऐक्वायर कर सकता है और मैं चाहता हूं कि ऐसी ऐक्वायर की गई जमीनें रेफ्यूजीज को दी जायें। रेफ्यूजीज यह नहीं चाहते कि वह जमीनें उनको मुफ्त मिल जायें और वे इसके लिये मुनासिब कीमत देने को तैयार हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि मेरे इन दो सुझावों पर गौर किया जाय।

अब मैं थोड़ा सा अपनी कंस्टीटूऐंसी की बाबत जहां से मैं आता हूं, अर्ज करना चाहता हूं। आमतौर पर जब कभी मैं शिकायत करता हूं कि सरकार ने यह नहीं किया वह नहीं किया और मेरा इलाका बैकवर्ड इलाका है तो मुझे यकीन दिलाया जाता रहा है कि भाखरा डेम की क्लैसिंग्स सब से ज्यादा इस इलाके को पहुंची है। मैंने कई मर्तबा इस हाउस में गवर्नमेंट का शुक्रिया अदा किया है कि हिसार जिले को फिलवाकया भाखरा डेम से बहुत फायदा पहुंचा है। २६ लाख एकड़ जमीन हमारे जिले की आखिर तक सरेराब होनी है लेकिन इसके साथ ही मुझे दुःख के साथ यह कहना पड़ता है कि वहां पर एक इलाका ऐसा रह गया है कि जिसकी बाबत शुरू में तजवीज थी कि भाखरा डेम वहां पर जाय लेकिन मुझे नहीं मालूम कि बाद में क्या कुछ हुआ कि उस इलाके को महरूम कर दिया गया और वह बदकिस्मत इलाका भिवानी तहसील का है। मैं समझता हूं कि भिवानी जैसा बैकवर्ड इलाका सारे हिन्दुस्तान भर में शायद दूसरा न होगा, उस इलाके में रास्ते नहीं हैं, वहां पानी पीने को नहीं मिलता और पानी के वास्ते वहां की जमीन खोदने पर भी मीठा पानी नहीं मिलता। पहले उस बैकवर्ड इलाके के लिए कहा गया था कि उसकी हालत सुधारी जायगी और वहां पर भाखड़ा डेम आयेगा लेकिन अब मैं उस इलाके में एक

वर्ष के बाद गया तो मैं आपसे अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मुझे उसकी खराब और बैकवर्ड हालत देख कर बहुत ज्यादा तकलीफ हुई। इस १५ वर्ष के अर्से में किसी शख्स ने भी उस इलाके की ओर आंख तक उठा कर नहीं देखा कि वहां की कैसी हालत है। हमारे बहुत कोशिश करने पर पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने यह वायदा किया कि वह १० करोड़ रुपया ट्यूबवैल लगाने के लिए देगी लेकिन यह अफसोस का मुकाम है कि अब तक वहां पर एक भी ट्यूबवैल नहीं लगाया गया है। इसके अलावा मुझे याद है कि स्वर्गीय किदवाई साहब ने सन् १९५५ में मुझ से वायदा किया था कि वह उसी साल में एक्सपेरीमेंटल ट्यूबवैल्स को खुदवाना शुरू कर देंगे लेकिन आज सन् १९५७ हो गया है और किसी ने उस ओर तवज्जह नहीं की है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह के जो पिछड़े हुए इलाके हैं वे खास तौर पर गवर्नमैंट आफ इंडिया के चार्ज में होने चाहियें ताकि उनकी तरफ विशेष रूप से तवज्जह हो सके। उस इलाके में मीलों चले जाइये कहीं पानी पीने के वास्ते नजर नहीं आता और पानी के वास्ते वहां लोग तड़पते रहते हैं। पानी इकट्ठा करने के वास्ते गड्ढे खोदते हैं लेकिन मेंह नहीं बरसता और यह परमात्मा का कोप है कि वहां पर पानी भी नहीं बरसता है। अगर आप जाकर वहां की हालत देखें तो आपको मालूम ऐसा होगा कि वह हिन्दुस्तान का हिस्सा ही नहीं है। सारे गांव में एक भी पक्का मकान नजर नहीं आयेगा और लोग झोंपड़ियों में रहते हैं। रास्ते इतने खराब तंग और दुश्वार गुजार हैं कि वहां पर न जीप जा सकती है और न कोई ऐसा जरिया है जिससे कि लोग वहां पर जा सकें। वहां के इलाके की सवारी सिर्फ ऊंट है जो कि बहुत दिनों तक बगैर पानी के रह सकता है और सवारी के काम वह आती है। उस इलाके को जो भाखरा डैम पहुंचाने का वायदा किया गया था वह पूरा नहीं किया गया और १० करोड़ की स्कीम के मातहत वहां पर जो ट्यूबवैल्स लगाने का वायदा किया गया था वह भी वायदा पूरा नहीं किया गया। अब वक्त आ गया है कि कम से कम उस वायदे को तो पूरा किया जाय और इसी साल के अन्दर ही-वहां पर एक्सपेरीमेंटल ट्यूबवैल्स लगा दिये जायें ताकि वह इलाका भी यह समझ सके कि वह भी हिन्दुस्तान का एक हिस्सा है। मैं ने वहां पर जाकर तहकीकात की है और मुझ मालूम हुआ है कि वहां पर जमीन के नीचे इतना पानी है कि ट्यूबवैल्स लगाने से उस इलाके का काफी फायदा हो सकता है। वक्त आ गया है अब हमें उस इलाके की तरफ पूरी तवज्जह देनी चाहिए। पंजाब गवर्नमेंट जिसके कि पास काफी बिजली मौजूद है और जो कहती है कि हम सारे पंजाब को बिजली से जगमगा देंगे, उसने भी अभी तक इस इलाके की तरफ तवज्जह नहीं दी है। पिछली मर्तबा आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब इरीगेशन ने एक मीटिंग की थी जिसमें पंजाब के अफसरान भी मौजूद थे और हमने पंजाब के अफसरान से उस मीटिंग के दौरान पूछा था कि उस इलाके के अन्दर कब तक बिजली आ जाने का इमकान है लेकिन हमें तसल्लीबख्श जवाब नहीं मिला था। जिस इलाके के निस्बत जवाब मिला था कि वहां चन्द एक महीनों में बिजली आ जायेगी, वहां पर भी आज तक कोई बिजली नहीं पहुंची है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जो जवाबात मिनिस्टर साहब की मौजूदगी में दिये जायें और जो ऐश्योरेंसेज हाउस के अन्दर दिये जायें वे जरूर पूरे किये जाने चाहियें और गवर्नमेंट अपने उन वायदों को पूरा करे। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस हाउस में तकरीर करते हुए जो हमारे एगरीकलचर मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया था कि हम उन वायदों को पूरा करेंगे उनको पूरा करें। मैं इरीगेशन एंड पावर मिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि वह अपने वायदे को पूरा करें और इस पिछड़े और पसमांदा इलाके की तरफ नजर

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

इनायत करें। आखिर वहां पर भी तो इंसान रहते हैं और जो उनको पानी की तकलीफ है उसको दूर करें । वहां पर खारी पानी होने की वजह से कितने ही जानवर मर जाते हैं और अगर भाखरा डैम ५ मील भी हो तो उसका पानी कम से कम पीने के वास्ते तो उस इलाके को मुहैय्या किया जाय । उनको जोहड़ों का गंदा पानी पीने पर मजबूर होना पड़ता है जिससे तरह तरह की बीमारियां फैलती हैं। कुएं वहां पर हैं वहीं और एक कुएं की खुदाई और बनवाई पर ५ हजार रुपए से कम लागत नहीं आती और कुआं अगर बनवा भी लिया जाय तो उसमें पीने को मीठा पानी नहीं मिलता है। अब कुदरत पर तो आप काबू पा नहीं सकते लेकिन मैं जानता हूं कि यह खारापन आर्टिफिशएल तरीके से जरूर दूर हो सकता है। थोड़ी ही दूर पर पिलानी में सागर सा बना हुआ है, वहां पर नहर पहुंचती है और हमारा यह इलाका उसी इलाके के साथ में लगा हुआ है और सैकेंड फाईव इयर प्लान में तो कम से कम उस इलाके को ऐसा बना दीजिये ताकि लोग वहां पर इंसान की तरह से रह सकें और जो पानी पीने की तकलीफ है वह तो कम से कम दूर हो।

एक मसले की बाबत जिसके लिए मैं हाउस में पहले भी कई मर्तबा शिकायत कर चुका हूं और जिसकी कि ओर गवर्नमेंट की तवज्जह होनी चाहिए नहीं है और वह है मवेशियों का मामला । मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या कोई शख्स यह कह सकता है कि पिछले दस वर्षों में हमारे देश की गायों का दूध बढ़ा है या हमारे बैलों की ताकत ज्यादा बढ़ गयी है ।

मैं उन लोगों से जो आये दिन सकेंड फाइव इयर प्लैन की बाबत डींगें मारा करते हैं बहस चाहता हूं कि यह आपका सैकेंड फाइव इयर प्लान अच्छी तरह से कामयाब नहीं हो सकता जब तक इसका जो असली आधार है, यानी एग्रीकल्चर प्रोड्यूस, जब तक इस देश में नहीं बढ़ेगी । अगर देश की एग्रीकलचर प्रोड्यूस नहीं बढ़ेगी तो यह आपका सैकेंड फाइव इयर प्लान कामयाब नहीं हो सकेगा । यही चीज हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने फरमाई है, प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाई है और अगर यह दुरुस्त है कि सैकेंड फाइव इयर प्लान को कामयाब बनाने के लिए एग्रीकलचर प्रोड्यूस को बढ़ाना चाहिए तो हमारे देश के जो मवेशी हैं उनके नस्ल सुधार की तरफ गवर्नमेंट को ध्यान देना चाहिए और देश की कैटल वेल्थ बढ़ानी चाहिए ।

मुझे यह देख कर बड़ा दुःख होता है कि देश में काऊ स्लाटर को कानून द्वारा बन्द करने के लिए तो जोर जोर के नारे उठाये जाते हैं, लेकिन असल मामले की ओर कोई तवज्जह नहीं देता । असली चीज कैटिल ब्रीड को ठीक करने की है । हम देखते हैं कि २० करोड़ रुपये इस काम के वास्ते रखे गये लेकिन २० करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किये गये और सिर्फ २० लाख रुपये ही खर्च हुए । इसी तरह गोसदनों के वास्ते ३ करोड़ रुपये पहली फाइव इयर प्लान में दिये गये लेकन उसमें से केवल ३ लाख रुपये ही खर्च हुए । आज जब मैं ने एग्रीकलचर मुहकमे की सन् १९५६ की समरी रिपोर्ट पढ़ी तो मुझे तो उसमें कोई जिक्र इस अम्र का नहीं मिला कि किसी किस्म की कोई तरक्की हमने इस तरफ की हो या वह वायदे पूरे किये हों जिनका कि जिक्र किया गया था । आज सब से बड़ी जरूरत हमारी ग्रो मोर फोडर और ग्रो मोर फूड की है और हम लोगों को और गवर्नमेंट को इसी ओर आगे बढ़ना चाहिए । जब तक एक अलहदा मिनिस्टर और प्लेनिंग कमीशन पर मेम्बर नहीं बनता पूरी गौर इन सवालों पर नहीं हो सकती ।

जब तक मवेशियों की हालत अच्छी नहीं होगी तब तक जितना पानी आप देते हैं उस का भी पूरा फायदा हम नहीं उठा सकेंगे क्यों कि जब तक बैल मजबूत नहीं होंगे, खेती

नहीं हो सकती । इस लिए हमें रिलिजासिटी से निकल कर बिल्कुल सेकुलरिज्म के तरीके से इस मसले को देखना है कि अपने मवेशियों को कैसे सुधारा जाये । इसके वास्ते हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब ने कितना रुपया दिया? मैं चाहूंगा कि जवाब देते वक्त हमें बतलाया जाए कि पिछले दस सालों में गवर्नमेंट ने इस बारे में क्या किया । अब तक गवर्नमेंट ने एक नई मिनिस्ट्री इस गर्ज के लिये बनाने की तजवीज पर अमल नहीं किया ।

मैं जनाब की तवज्जह चन्द बातों की तरफ दिलाना चाहता था लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि मैं ने पंद्रह मिनट तो ले लिए हैं इस लिए मैं मुख्तसरन उन का जिक्र करूंगा मैं ने कुछ दिन पहले ला कमीशन का जिक्र किया था । मैं खुश हूं कि वह मुकर्रर हो चुका । लेकिन हम बड़ी इम्पेशेन्स के साथ उस की रिपोर्ट की तरफ देख रहे हैं । इस देशके अन्दर और चीजों की तरक्की हुई, लेकिन ला के बारे में यह तरक्की नहीं हुई । अभी तक वही परसेन्टेज ऐक्विटल्स का कायम है जो पहले से चला आ रहा है, जिस का जिक्र हमारे काटजू साहब ने किया था जिस वक्त उन्होंने क्रिमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड पेश किया था । मैं चाहता हूं कि हमारा ला कमीशन जल्दी से हमें अपनी रिपोर्ट दे और हम जल्दी उस की तरफ तवज्जह दे सकें ।

इसी तरह से मैं ने जेल कमिशन की तरफ तवज्जह दिलाई थी, लेकिन जेल कमिशन अब तक नहीं बना । तीस वर्ष हुए जब जेल कमिशन ने इस देश के अन्दर अपनी कार्रवाई की थी । यह दुरुस्त है कि उस के बाद काफी तरक्की जेलों में हुई है, लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि जेल कमिशन तीस वर्ष के बाद जरूर कायम होना चाहिए ताकि हम भी उसी रास्ते पर चल सकें जिस पर दूसरे सिविलाइज्ड मुल्क चलते हैं ।

मैं टैक्सेशन के बारे में भी चन्द अल्फाज अर्ज करना चाहता हूं । आज शहरों में शिकायत है कि इनकम टैक्स के सिलसिले में प्रापर्टी टैक्स और प्रोफेशनल टैक्स दोनों लगा दिये गए हैं । यह डबल टैक्सेशन है । आप इस का कोई इलाज कीजिए । हम देखते हैं कि देश के अन्दर गरीब आदमी के वास्ते कपड़ा पंहगा होता जा रहा है, खुराक मंहगी होती जा रही है, लोगों के अन्दर अनएम्प्लायमेंट मौजूद है । जिन आदमियों ने आंखें खोल कर अपनी कांस्टिटुएन्सी में देखा है वह जानते हैं कि लोग जो शिकायत करते हैं वह दुरुस्त है । लोग यह जानते हैं कि बहुत जल्दी तरक्की नहीं हो सकती, लेकिन फिर भी तरक्की की तरफ हमारा कदम तो उठना चाहिए । हम ने अम्बर चरखे का जिक्र बहुत सुना है हम इन्तजार कर रहे हैं कि गांवों के अन्दर यह अम्बर चरखा जाए और लोगों का अनएम्प्लायमेंट कम हो । लेकिन हमें पता नहीं है कि इस के बारे में क्या हो रहा है । मैं चाहता हूं कि आप की तवज्जह इस की तरफ जाए ।

आज देहातों के अन्दर बहुत बड़ी गरीबी और इल्लिटरेसी है, इम्नोरेंस है । इस को देख कर सख्त हैरानी व मायूसी होती है—लेकिन दो चीजें हैं जो कि हमारे लिए गाइडिंग स्टार की तरह से हैं, बिजली की तरह से नजर आती है और जो सब तकलीफ का हल करेंगी । हम लोगों से कहते थे कि भाखरा डैम के साथ हमारे यहां तरक्की शुरू होगी । पावर ज्यादा पैदा होगी, बिजली आएगी, रोड्स का नेट वर्क बनेगा, इस से ज्यादा तुम क्या चाहते हो, लेकिन हमें जो जवाब मिलता था वह तवज्जह के काबिल है । जहां मैं गया वहां करप्शन की शिकायत सुनी । नहर के महकमे में करप्शन की जितनी शिकायत हम ने सुनी उतनी अंग्रेजों के जमाने में भी नहीं सुनी थी । मैं चाहता हूं कि इस करप्शन की तरफ हमारी तवज्जह हो । जब यह करप्शन दूर होगा तभी मैं समझूंगा कि हम राम राज्य की तरफ जा रहे हैं ।

एक चीज मैं ने लोगों में देखी । लोग गवर्नमेंट के साथ कोआपरेट करने को तैयार हैं, जो सबक हमारी गवर्नमेंट देती है उस को मानने को तैयार हैं । दूसरी

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

तरफ मैं ने लोगों में जो चीज देखी वह यह कि उन को गवर्नमेंट में यकीन है। वह समझते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट उन के साथ ठीक काम कर रही है और गवर्नमेंट में यकीन होने की वजह से ही बहुत से लोगों ने कांग्रेस पार्टी को वोट दिए हैं। इस लिए आज हमारा फर्ज बन गया है कि उन की तरफ तवज्जह दें। मैं चाहता हूं कि हम में से हर एक मेम्बर इस फर्ज को पहचाने और पार्लियामेंट हमें ऐसे रास्ते पर ले जाए जिस से हम अपने देश को पूरी तरह से समृद्ध बनाते जाएं और जो दिक्कतें हों वह दूर हों। लोग गवर्नमेंट के साथ कोआपरेट करने को तैयार हैं सिर्फ इन्तजार यह है कि हमारे मेम्बरान उन्हें रास्ता दिखाएं।

मुझे बहुत खुशी है और हम इस यकीन के साथ आए हैं कि हमारे देश के वास्ते बड़ा अच्छा फ्यूचर है और इस के अन्दर सिर्फ हमारे काम करने की ही जरूरत है जिस से हम आगे बढ़ सकें। और इस में हम पीछे नहीं रहेंगे, परमात्मा हमारी मदद करेगा।

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my appreciation of the Finance Minister for having responded to my request or perhaps on his own, by issuing a White Paper on the Budget. The previous practice of having a 'A' speech and a 'B' speech and reading them out not only took a lot of our time but made it difficult for the Members to understand fully the economic background in the light of which the proposals of the Budget were to be judged. I would like that when the next Budget is offered the White Paper will be elaborated and, if possible, excluding such portions as deal with taxation proposals, the rest of the white paper may be made available to the Members a little earlier before the Budget itself is presented. I would like that such a report should include a number of graphs and charts because it is absolutely necessary to invite the attention of the Members and through the Members of the wider public to the basic realities of our economic conditions.

About two years back or one year and a half back I felt very happy because the attention of this House, the attention of the Members and of the public was increasingly getting riveted upon the economic problems of the country. One felt as if the whole country was becoming Plan conscious, was throbbing and pulsating in response to the needs and requirements of the Plan. In the last year or more, our attention has been diverted to other problems. I do not underrate the importance of these other problems. Our thoughts and our energies were absorbed by the great question of States reorganisation and, in the recent past, inevitably, our minds are preoccupied with the problem across our frontiers. But, if we permit our minds to be occupied with the problems of States reorganisation and of Kashmir for a long time, if we do not set right our focus on economic problems, I am afraid we shall be guilty of permitting the ground on which we stand getting completely undermined.

I do not for a moment underrate the importance of other problems but the paramount problem,—the problem of all problems—is the economic situation in our country; and I would like to invite the attention of the whole House to the economic imbalance that is growing in our country, to the *malaise* that is creeping in our economy that has been ably brought out by the White Paper.

You will remember that on the previous occasion, a few months back, when I had an opportunity to make a few observations on the interim Budget that was presented, I had invited the attention of the House and of the Finance Minister in particular to the economic crisis that was looming on the horizon. The Finance Minister was good enough to give me a fairly long reply but there were many passages in it that were evasive. I find that the croakings of Cassandra have proved to be more true than I would have liked them to be.

When I spoke some months back I did not have such massive material before me, and even if I had tried I would not have been able to bring together such a formidable array of facts and figures as have been presented to us by the Finance Minister in his White Paper. And, a study of this White Paper will show that many things seem to be going wrong with our economy. We really and truly seem to be merry-making on the brink of a volcano and unless even at this late hour we are prepared to realise and recognise the full gravity of the crisis that is hovering before us, I shudder to think about our future. Not only prices have been rising; production has been either stagnating or falling.

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There has been expansion in currency; all kinds of things there have been; even contradictory things are happening and what are we told? We are told, and very rightly, that we have got to increase our production and we have got side by side to increase our savings. But if you look at the facts of the last 2 years our production either has remained stagnant or has been increasing at a pace which is so slow, at a pace which is so agonizingly slow, as far as our savings are concerned. Our savings drive seems to be petering out. My friend Shri S. K. Patil made very interesting suggestions on a previous occasion and in response to the very eloquent speech that he made, the Finance Minister threw the baby in his lap, and I think the baby has been lying there probably unattended too. The net result is that neither have we been able to step our savings nor have we been able to step up our food supplies. We are told that in the next four years we have to increase our food supplies from 60 million tons to 80 million tons. How exactly are we going to do it? Over and over again, I have been posing this problem and the Prime Minister raised this question almost a year back. I posed this question in this House over and over again. All that we are told is that these are new targets and we hope to achieve them. We are not moving in that direction. What is wrong about it? Here is a diagnosis of our ills. I find in the speech of the Finance Minister no reference to a solution whatsoever to this, able, brilliant diagnosis that is offered. How do you propose to overcome this difficulty? I fully realize that this is a lame duck Parliament and probably he is reserving its full treatment till the new Parliament assembles. I cannot quarrel about that. I would like to remind this House, and the country outside that we cannot afford to wait for a month or two months. We have got to become fully aware of the seriousness of the situation. Last time my main criticism of the Finance Minister was that he is not making the country sufficiently serious. The White Paper is there; I do not know how many people have cared to read the White Paper. From the speeches that I heard in this House, with due deference to all concerned, I would say that they have not cared to read it. If Members of this House have not seen the White Paper, what of the larger public outside? Therefore, it is for the Treasury Benches, the Finance Minister, and the Prime Minister to make the public realize that we are facing a tremendous crisis and the entire nation must gird up its loins to overcome it.

Food and clothing are the most important items. If we are going in for deficit financing, if there is superfluous surplus purchasing power floating about our economy, the most effective way of mopping it up would be to make foodgrains and cloth available in more abundant measure, but our production of foodgrains and cloth is becoming stagnant. What have we been doing about it? Ambar Charka is very good; increase in textile factory production is also useful, but we seem to have been tied up in this controversy for the last two years with no result. We are faced with a situation where we have to depend upon foreign assistance. Whether foreign assistance would be forthcoming in the future in the measure we want, I do not know;

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especially when our foreign exchange is becoming so very desperate, I wonder how far it is wise for us to fritter away our foreign exchange resources in buying foodgrains, and cotton in order to produce the cloth that we need.

As far as foodgrains and cloth are concerned, our position is shaky and has remained shaky and has remained vulnerable, and the entire Treasury Benches seem to be generally complacent about this situation.

As far as savings are concerned, I am not able to understand why the corporate savings have not increased. This has been a period of inflationary pressure; this has been a period wherein prices have been rising and in some places prices have shot up. Why is it that if profits have increased disproportionately, savings are not increasing? What has happened? There is no reference in this White Paper to the profit that have been made by the various industries and what have they done with those profits? Why is it that a commensurate increase in corporate savings has not taken place? We have increased our taxation substantially. I do not know how much further taxation it will be possible for us to raise. What are the other ways and means ultimately of mopping up the surplus purchasing power that is circulating in our economy? How are we going to mobilize our resources? What are the forms of savings that are available to us? Personally, I feel, a situation has come where every Member of the Legislature, particularly a Member of this House, must come forward and undertake the responsibility for developing the food drive and for stepping up the savings drive in his own constituency. Unless Members come forward and they mobilize the goodwill of other forces in their constituencies, I do not think, purely through the administrative machinery, this difficulty will be overcome. On the previous occasion, I had pointed out that we must link up the wages of the workers with the productivity of labour. I do not think very much has been done in that direction. I had also suggested to the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Labour Minister that they should call the prominent leaders of the Trade Union Movement in the country, and sit down with them and point out how very important it is that we must step up our production and in order to step up our production, whatever needs to be done has to be done by the management on the one side, the Government on the other and labour on the third side. That also has not been done. Unless every effort is made to increase our production, and above all the production of cloth, we will be facing a very difficult situation.

The foreign exchange position seems to be becoming more difficult and it has been rightly stressed that we shall have to cut down our imports and augment our exports. Various proposals have been made to implement this policy, but here again unless the entire country is made conscious of the difficulties that we are facing, unless the overwhelming support of the common people in the policy of total mobilization of our resources for the purposes of development is achieved, I am afraid we shall have to revise the target of our plan from 5 to 7 years and we may be faced during the short period by serious economic difficulties. We cannot afford to do these things, and, therefore, we have got somehow or other to communicate to the people outside the need to understand or realize the gravity of the situation and at the same time not be alarmed by it, but be prepared to come forward and undertake in a mature manner the responsibilities that the situation calls upon us to shoulder. In spite of the repeated requests that I have been making in the last three years that I have been here, neither the Planning Minister nor the Finance Minister has cared very much to communicate to this House and through this House to the country as

a whole the imperatives of planning. My hon. friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, for whom I have very great respect, and if he will permit me to say so, great affection, just now talked about the need for housing. There is no doubt that in this country people are living in bad houses, that housing is a crying need. The Planning Minister is not here and in his absence I would ask the Finance Minister: Is it possible for a country that is trying to buckle up and build up the basic wherewithals of its economic development, to divert resources for housing?

Some time back I had the misfortune to come forward and say that we cannot afford the expenditure of increasing wages unless productivity is raised side by side. I was criticised by my INTUC friends on one side and AITUC friends on the other. Probably it was not good politics, but I contend that it was sound economics. Likewise, the demand for housing. There is no doubt that there is a great need for housing. Our urban population is increasing at a terrific pace. If one tries to study the position of the towns and cities, he will find that the metropolitan centres are growing at a disproportionate rate; smaller towns are not growing; and it is half a dozen big cities that are growing at a terrific pace that they are going to create a terrible problem, perhaps an insoluble problem of housing. It is necessary, therefore, to see that there is some diversion of population from metropolitan centres and some attempt is made to develop smaller towns. That, of course, is a part of the general strategy of planning. But what is more important is that we shall have to consider the claims of housing within limits, because housing in terms of immediate economic development is a non-productive activity. It may sound heartless to talk like this. After all, my heart bleeds as much as that of anybody else that our people have not got houses to live in. But why have they not got them? It is because we have not got the resources to provide them with. And first things have to come first—the very things, the increase of food production and cloth production and the building up of the wherewithal of the capital base of our economy on which the entire superstructure can be built.

The housing for the people is a part of the superstructure. That is the reason why it is criminal to permit a few people to live in luxurious houses. One of the reasons why we have repeatedly said that you must move faster towards socialism, towards a kind of egalitarian society is not because as the Prime Minister has often been supercilliously saying that we want to bring down people to a low level, we do not want to share poverty—that is not the idea—but the whole idea is that these are the legitimate demands of the people; in a democracy people are perfectly entitled to say, "Give us houses". With an underdeveloped economy you cannot give houses. If you give houses, the resources will not be available for building up the capital base of the whole economy. What then should you do? You must communicate to the people the priorities and appeal to get their co-operation. Secondly, you have to try and bring about economic and social equality as far as is humanly possible, because without doing that we shall always be faced with these difficulties. There are generous hearted people here who in their life time want to see that the terrible poverty, hunger and squalor, from which our people suffer, these terrible scourges must be lifted, must be removed. If the people in authority divert our limited resources to these humanitarian things, the result will be this: neither that will be achieved, nor will development take place, and we shall be drifting towards more or less a kind of a situation that has arisen in a number of countries of Asia.

I would like to sound a note of warning, again a very unpopular note

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of warning. When I look at the election results, I feel that to a considerable extent, linguistic feelings have received tremendous support from the people. This is very good as far as it goes. But it can be beyond a certain limit. It is quite possible that now that our States are reorganised on linguistic basis, increasingly the States will come forward and make all kinds of demands on the Centre. It is possible that they will come to the Centre and say, "We want this, you are not attending to this problem of ours, this particular difficulty of housing is or is not being attended" and so on. The result is that instead of the States coming to face the people and say, "Look here, these are stubborn difficulties and they can be overcome only if you are willing to shoulder it with your hard work, co-operation, austerity and devotion, with incorruptible and efficient administration", it is quite easy for them to divert the attention, to wrath and discontent of the people to the Central Government. The Central Government, for one reason or another, may not be able to meet all these demands, and the result will be that disruptive tendencies in the country will grow—not that anybody wants them to grow. I am not suggesting that there is any single party in the country which is deliberately and consciously trying to foster disruptive tendencies in the country, but it is a part of the very dangers of development to provoke these tendencies. In the very process of development, we seem to be breaking at seams. That is where a conscious effort must be made to keep people together, and a conscious effort of keeping people together is not purely a political jugglery. It is a task of providing to the people the right kind of national guidance.

I have often asked the Prime Minister, and it has been a matter of deep sorrow to me that it has been a voice in wilderness, that he should not be the leader of a party but be the teacher of the nation. It has been a matter of great regret to me that from the one person from whom I expected that the nation would be taught and would be led in the right direction, not in terms of providing a particular type of government but in terms of providing a certain stream, continuing stream of understanding, that is not forthcoming. We all seem to be very happy and very satisfied with the various things that we have done. But we are running away from the fact that the very stubborn economic problem will become more obdurate, will become more stubborn. In the last ten years we have been moving nearer and nearer to the hump, and when you reach the hump, the crossing is very difficult. We are reaching the hump, and once we cross the hump in the next ten years, then the pastures are open to us. In the next five or ten years perhaps we are reaching the period, of our greatest challenge and the future of this country will be determined by what we do in the next five or ten years. That is why I am anxious that we should be able to evoke from the people the right kind of response. But the right kind of response will not come unless they are offered the right kind of stimulus. A small step, a worthy step in this direction has been taken by my hon. friend, but I do not know who will be the Finance Minister next. I hope our present Finance Minister will continue in his position. If he is there, I would very much like him to continue this process of educating the people; and rather than go about thinking of the elections, now that the elections are over, for the next four years do not go about beating your drum, but go and tell the people the reality of the problem and try to enlist the co-operation of our people. Above all, try to make this as non-political as possible.

I would also like to appeal to all parties that were ranged against the ruling party in the elections, only one thing. The elections are over now.

When the question of Kashmir comes, everybody says, "Here is a great emergency and we shall be prepared to forget everything and rally together in order to face the emergency." I say that this is a hundred times greater emergency than Kashmir, and unless we are prepared to rally together in order to overcome these difficulties, we will only find frustration in this country, frustration in this House, frustration in veteran members like Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, than whom, I may be permitted to say, there is no more sincere member in the House. When he goes to his constituency and finds people very unhappy and miserable, what can he do except to come here and speak in the strain he did today? If this House hears him and says "Don't worry, we are trying to shoulder this responsibility", then he goes to his constituency and says, "I am old; I may not have the same vigour as a young man but I am prepared to put my shoulders to the wheel." Will not he be speaking a different language than the one he has spoken today or he has been compelled to speak in the past? I would like in the new Parliament that kind of a new voice to come up. Only when that voice comes up in that Parliament, when that new kind of vibration is felt outside in the country, shall we be able to overcome the difficulties that face us.

I would like, finally, to make one appeal to the Finance Minister. Do not try to be supercilious. Do not try to put up a kind of a complacent attitude concerning what is happening. Take the country into confidence. Take the House into confidence. The elections are over and the ruling Party has won the elections as it wanted. Now at least, let us try to bulit up our country on the basis of mutual co-operation and an honest understanding as far as facts and realities are concerned.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget presented a few days ago.

~~21.22 hrs.~~

[~~Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair~~]

. On a previous occasion, I said that the hon. Finance Minister had the qualities of a statesman like Kautilya. I still maintain that. He has proved that in administration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He is now in charge of the Finance Ministry.

As my friend, Shri Asoka Mehta said, the elections are now over and to enthuse the voters, we have said something more than what we can achieve. I hope that we will now try to be more realistic. Let us now show *the country what we can achieve.*

There is a certain amount of difference in the Budget every year . For the last five or six years, we have been making very conservative Budgets. The safety margins provided have always been excessive. For 1955-56, the Budget Estimates showed a revenue deficit of 17 crores but the final accounts disclosed a surplus of Rs. 40 crores. There was a difference of Rs. 57 cores in that year. Similarly, there have been excessive margins of safety in all the Budgets since 1950-51; on an average it comes to Rs. 50 crores every year. When these over-cautious Budgets are presented, it is the practice for the Finance Minister to impose some additional burden of tax apparently on the ground of covering the revenue deficits and financing development expenditure. But, there is chronic backlog of about fifteen per cent in the development expenditure.

As Shri Asoka Mehta rightly observed, this is the first time that we get this white paper containing all the facts and figures. It shows that the development expenditure has been short every year by more or less fifteen per cent. The Budget Estimates have always proved to be wrong. The Finance Minister is known for his originality and boldness and I call upon him to secure greater accuracy in budgeting by eliminating the practice of excessive budgeting.

[Shri Tulsidas]

The difficulties with regard to the implementation of the Second Plan have amply been made out by my friend, Shri Asoka Mehta. Fortunately, these difficulties have all arisen in the first year of the Plan and we hope that the Finance Minister will take proper need so that these difficulties may not be continued during the remaining period of the Plan. I only hope that he will be more realistic than he has been till now. We should think ahead whether our resources will be able to meet the expenditure as envisaged in the Plan. One generally likes to achieve much more than one's capacity. There is a limit to what a nation can achieve within a certain time. If we overstep that limit, such difficulties as we see now appear. Under the present circumstances, I will not call it a crisis. I do not want to get myself scared at these difficulties. I am sure we can overcome them. But, we have to consider whether these difficulties have become apparent on account of the over-stepping of certain limitations. The present international tensions do not justify our embarking on over-ambitious undertakings. The strain, stress and instability are already visible in the form of inflation, adverse balance of payments, transport bottlenecks, raw material shortages and financial stringency. I am glad that these signs have appeared in the first year of the Plan.

One of the advisers to the Planning Commission, Shri Moon, said in a recent radio talk that he thought that there would be a twenty per cent. pruning. He also said that the frills may be removed leaving the basic projects intact. I would like to know whether the hon. Finance Minister has considered what Shri Moon said in this talk and how he is going to prune the expenditure in the way he announced.

The greatest difficulty for this Plan, as shown in the white paper is with regard to the foreign exchange. Let us see why this difficulty has arisen. I wonder whether the present foreign exchange shortage experienced by Shri T. T. K. Finance Minister, is not the hang-over of the excesses committed by Shri T. T. K., as Commerce Minister last year. Probably he tried to build up stocks before the international situation got worse. Perhaps, it may be that on account of that, large imports have taken place during the last year. We have been able to get the essential articles in our country before Suez Canal trouble started. But, whatever it may be, the fact remains. The difficulty is increasing and not decreasing. Drastic steps are needed to bring the situation under control. The White Paper gives the figures of our balance of payments position. The deficit stood at Rs. 44.6 crores in the second quarter but it rose to Rs. 81.4 crores in the third quarter. Perhaps the deficit in the fourth quarter must be still higher. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to tell us whether the deficit in the first quarter of this year will be much bigger than that shown in the third quarter or whether it will almost be the same.

The most important point to be considered is, how to solve this difficulty. We have now been able to get all those articles and we have imported them in large quantities. The Finance Minister in his speech has pointed out to us the different measures which his Ministry is taking with regard to this particular aspect, and I am sure we will be able to get over this difficulty to a considerable extent. But the fact still remains that these difficulties are not going to be of a temporary nature because our development expenditure is going to be increased year by year and our needs for foreign exchange will also be greater every year.

One suggestion which the hon. Finance Minister has made is that he would like the import of machinery to be done on the deferred payment system. I do appreciate that this a very easy way of getting over a

certain amount of difficulty in importing capital goods and machinery. But I would also like him to appreciate by this deferred payment system there will be an added cost to the plants which will be imported in future to the extent of 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. That is also going to be paid in terms of foreign exchange. Sir you know, during the next seven years if deferred payments have to be made, the interest charges outside India are much larger than what they are in this country and calculating the rate of interest on the amount of money which we will have to pay it will come to about 7 to 8 per cent. Added to that, the manufacturers who are sellers of these plants and machinery will naturally charge 10 to 15 per cent, more as price than what they would otherwise do. Therefore, the cost of these plants and machinery will go up, in my opinion, to about 40 to 50 per cent. That will be added on in future years. Today if we have to import machinery under the Plan to the extent of Rs. 1000 crores—the Second Five Year Plan involves import of machinery and vehicles worth about Rs. 1500 crores—and if deferred payment terms are to be arranged even for a fraction of this sum, that will raise the cost of the projects enormously and to that extent our foreign exchange difficulties will continue. Unless and until the deferred payment arrangements are only allowed to be made for such projects which will give us foreign exchange in future much more than what extra amount such arrangements will cost us, the difficulty will not be solved. For the time being such arrangements may solve the problem, but there will be added difficulties in future as I have already pointed out. That is one aspect which I would like the Finance Minister to examine. I do not know whether he has taken that into consideration or not.

The fact is that the difficulties in respect of foreign exchange are really very very serious. I only hope that these difficulties will be greatly reduced by, as he has mentioned, getting aid from the friendly countries. Of course I know that when you take aid from friendly foreign countries you have to be very very careful. These foreign aids which come from foreign countries may not have any strings attached to them but they are bound to have a certain amount of obligation on the country, and, to that extent, the policy of our foreign affairs, which we have always followed as more or less a very independent one and also a sort of completely neutral one, will be affected. I do not know how far that policy will be affected by these aids, but I am sure that the Finance Minister must have taken that into consideration, and he will certainly try to get as much foreign aid from friendly foreign countries as possible.

Then there is another aspect. As regards foreign exchange difficulties you want foreign participation in the different projects undertaken here. As you know, people would be interested to come over here and participate by investing their funds in our different projects only if there is a certain amount of attraction given to them to invest their money. I do not know whether under the present economic policy of our Government foreign participation is possible. I do not know whether there is any attraction for bringing foreign capital. Therefore, if it is desirable to bring foreign participation in our projects, the Finance Minister will have to consider the matter and create such conditions as will leave a certain amount of attraction for the foreigners to invest their funds.

Apart from the question of balance of payments difficulties, there is also the question of our consumer goods. My friend Shri Asoka Mehta just now mentioned that the people of our country should have enough enthusiasm to see that our Plans—we are now putting up a Plan every five years—are fully implemented. Let us consider whether it is possible for the people to have any enthusiasm. How is it possible when they have

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not been able to get their consumer goods even to a slightly better degree than they were doing before? We have the experience of totalitarian countries. In totalitarian countries we have seen because the State could not make available to the people consumer goods even to a reasonble extent and it went forward to build up huge factories, that they had to face a certain amount of revolution. You have the example of Hungary. What has happened there? In a democratic country like ours, though we are going ahead with a certain amount of building up of factories which are essential,—I do no say "No" to that—if you want to create enthusiasm in the minds of the people of the country, the only way is to make available to the people consumer goods to a reasonable extent. After all, we have a very low standard of living. If a slightly better standard of living is required and is demanded by the people, we should make it available to them; at least the essential consumer goods should be made available to them. Unless that is done the enthusiasm is not going to be created in the people, and unless that enthusiasm is created whatever plans we make will meet with difficulties. It is very good that in our country today we are plan conscious. This plan-consciousness can only go further and continue to remain if the enthusiasm is created throughout the country. If that enthusiasm does not remain, I am afraid, there will be a certain amount of frustration, which is not desirable when we are today on the threshold of developing and expanding our country.

This sort of voluntary help, voluntary aid, voluntarily going forward and working hard and so on, as Shri Asoka Mehta pointed out, are only possible provided the people feel that they are getting slightly better things than what they were having before. I do not know how far we can restrict this and go ahead. I do not know how far we can go on saying: "You cannot use more cloth, you cannot have more consumer goods and so on." You must see that the people get something more than what they were getting before. Unless that is done there is bound to be a certain amount of frustration left in the country which is not a desirable thing.

I would like to point out to the Finance Minister—Shri Asoka Mehta also referred to it—as to why there is no saving. On page 5 of this White Paper paragraph 15 it is already stated:

> "Part of the increase in private indebtedness to the banking system is explained by the rise in economic activity and the higher level of prices; but it is clear that a part of the finance required for expansion was provided by bank credit. This indicates the inadequacy of corporate savings for financing the programmes in the private sector."

The other day, when the interim Budget was brought in, the Finance Minister thought that in the corporate sector there is quite a lot of accumulated reserves and these accumulated reserves are otherwise being frittered away. Therefore, he has brought in a scheme, a deposit scheme in the last Finance Bill. It is very clearly shown here that in the corporate sector there is no adequate saving.

In the individual sector there is no adequate saving because of the saturation point which taxation has brought in. If we are going to have no adequate saving in the beginning, whether in the corporate sector or in the individual sector, how do you expect to have a planned implementation of the schemes particularly in the non-Governmental sector which

is called upon to produce within a period of five years a certain amount of consumer goods which are also essential? That is the point which I would like the hon. Finance Minister to clarify. He said the other day that he was going to make rules with regard to the deposits. So far the rules have not been made. I would like to know when these rules are going to be printed and published and how the Finance Minister is going to deal with the problem. He himself gave an assurance in this House that he is not going to ask those corporations, who already utilised their reserves for the implementation of the Plan. Even on the question of implementation of the Plan, the corporations have had to finance the work with a certain amount of their working capital, along with their reserves. The hon. Finance Minister has given assurance that he will see to it that these corporations will not be called upon to pay those deposits. But I find in the budget an estimate of Rs. 30 crores which the Finance Minister expects to get from the corporations and from the corporate sector. I would like to know how and in what way those calculations had been made, because, the estimate has been given here as Rs. 30 crores. If he expects Rs. 30 crores of these accumulated reserves as deposits, then I would like to know how he expects the corporate sector to function with regard to the future projects as well as the deposits and the working capital.

As you know, Sir, even the corporations have to borrow from the banks and it is very evident from the White Paper that the banking indebtedness has very much increased, and the banks provide only 75 per cent of the needs of the corporations. If this Rs. 30 crores goes to the extent of three times the amount, they will not get the bank credit. That is also a fact and that is also a point which the hon. Finance Minister should clarify.

Then, I am sorry I have again to refer, as I have always referred on the occasion of every budget during the last few years, to this fact, namely, more and more expenditure is incurred on the States, more and more grants are given to the States and more and more aid is given to the States in addition to more and more loans to the States. I suggested last time, when of course the present Finance Minister was not handling this Ministry, that we should have a committee which should go into these grants and loans to the States. After all, we are giving much more to the States every year, and this House is entitled to go into this mater to find out whether the loans and grants which are given to the States are properly utilised for the needs of the Plan. I plead that the House—at least the new House which will be formed shortly—should demand such a committee to be constituted by the House. Only this House, namely, the Lok Sabha, can look into this question of large amounts being given as loans and grants and aids to the different States.

I may again make the usual point at least for the benefit of the new House. We have always raised this point of public accountability. That has not been properly looked into so far. Several times the Finance Minister has told us that public accountability will be there and that this House should be entitled to go into the workings of public corporations as well as into the question of amounts of loans and grants given to the various States. He has formed a high-power committee with regard to expenditure. I am sure that that committee will only look into the expenditure side. But the point is that this House or at least the future House should see to it that a committee of this House is appointed to go into the aspect of expenditure with regard to corporations, their working and functioning, and so on.

Next, I would like to know from the Finance Minister the working of the Life Insurance Corporation. Life insurance has been nationalised, and the new set-up has been functioning from 1st September last. I do not know

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how far the Life Insurance Corporation is bringing in new business. Reports show that life insurance business has gone down by 50 per cent or even lower. The working of the Life Insurance Corporation up till now shows or at least it was its object—one thing, namely, to channelise the savings of the people and thereby make available those savings to the Government as well as for the other uses according to the Plan. I would like to know how far after nationalisation from first September last, the Life Insurance Corporation has been able to get new business in this year.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): What about the old business?

Shri Tulsidas: Of course, I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether old business at least continue. In the budget figures that have been given there, and from the new taxations which have been mentioned, I say that still the estimates which have been prepared do not show any large increase in the total collection or total expectation of taxes, whether it is corporation tax or individual tax. Does it mean that we have reached the saturation point and we will have diminishing returns in future?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend is a businessman. May I ask him one thing? Is he not making more money and paying more tax? He would know it himself.

Shri Tulsidas: I do not. I would like to know the total amount of collection. I can only speak from the facts that he has given and the figures before me. The estimates do not show any relative increase in tax collections under the different heads, particularly in regard to direct taxation. What does it show? Why is he not showing the figures higher when he naturally says that as a businessman I know it myself? But why does he show it less? Is it the usual practice of over conservatism not to show more and then show higher figures later on? Or, is it a fact that it has reached saturation point and whether there is any chance of now getting a diminishing return? That is a point which I would like to be clarified, because, generally, the budgets for the last five or six years have been prepared in such a way that there has been an over-conservatism and the budgets and the estimates have always gone wrong both on the side of expenditure as well as on the side of revenues. That is a point which I would like to be clarified by the hon. Finance Minister.

I have made most of the points that I wanted to make, and I only hope that the hon. Finance Minister will be able to give us some of the clarifications which I have asked from him.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Only some.

Shri Tulsidas: I do not know whether there is 'some' or more. I hope that he will be able to give us all that is with him. I do not think there should be any fear about clarification of these points. Any Member would like to have an explanation on them, and I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister will give us the explanation.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): The case for backward areas was very ably argued by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. I would like to argue the case for the area which is not only backward but which is also a border area. I believe there are many border areas in the Punjab. Ferozepur district, Amritsar district and Gurdaspur district constitute the border area, but Gurdaspur district is a border area *par excellence*. As I was going round in my constituency—of course, my future constituency—I found that sometimes the border was only a mile and a half away or at the most two miles away from us. Pakistan touches the Gurdaspur district at countless points and it is for this reason that I call this district a border district. I would suggest very respectfully that all the border district in India should be ameliorated and be given a special or preferential treatment. This should

not be left to the State Governments, because this constitutes a special responsibility of the Central Government. After all, as you know, these border districts are in a way the gateways of India; and, what the people in these districts do, feel and think is very much conditioned by how they live. How they live determines their morale, and the morale of those districts is basically the keystone of the morale of the whole of India. It is not only so in times of war—I do not apprehend any war—but also in times of peace. Their morale filters down to the inhabitants of the whole of India and that is the basic factor in the morale of the whole of India.

I would, therefore, say that all the Ministries of the Central Government, especially the Ministries of Defence and Planning, should put their heads together and do something about these border districts. There is one thing which I have noticed during the last few years and it is this. We have done a great deal of planning from the top. It is a very good planning; it is admirable and excellent planning. We have done it on a very big scale and we have thought of big projects and big things, which are, of course, necessary; I do not deny it. But so far as planning from the bottom is concerned, I must say that we have been very very deficient. I would ask the Planning Ministry to regulate the planning in such a way that planning from bottom and planning from top meet somewhere in the middle, so that planning from top only does not remain a fact of the situation, but planning from bottom also becomes a very real thing to the masses of the people. There is no doubt about the fact that we have built many big projects; but, those big projects do not go home to the business and bosom of the people at large. It is true they make good items of talk on the platform and people do feel happy about them. But, the people in India ask us, "What have you done for us? What have you done for this ilaka or that ilaka? What have you done for this district or that district?" Of course, something has been done, but I must say that the whole system of planning has got to be reoriented. From this point of view, the Planning Ministry must have cells covering every State, not only every State, but every district of that State, not only every district, but every part of that district. Unless that is done, I think the conception of the Welfare State will remain very very vague and nebulous for the masses. The conception of a stable and prosperous India will remain very much in the air for the people; but, if we are to bring it home to the people, something like what I have suggested should be done.

I would say that somehow we have been neglecting the small places. The Father of the Nation used to say, "Yoga consists of prefection in small things". I think the time has come in the second Five Year Plan when we should think of the small villages, small projects and small undertakings. We will have to do that if we want to make them real. While I was touring about in my constituency, I found that the slums of Delhi and Kanpur, of which we talk so much, were nothing when compared to the slums that we have created in the small towns—the district towns and the tahsil towns. The appalling conditions of those slums can be better seen than imagined. I have myself visited some of those slums and I may say that those slums constitute a great challenge to the neighbouring towns, where you find every big buildings, clean lanes and clean surroundings. I ask the Planning Ministry if they ever thought about these slums and about the conditions in which our Harijan brethren live. Whenever we think of these problems, our mind centres round big cities and big towns and we never go down to the small towns and villages. That is the basic defect in our planning. We have left it to the States; I do not say that the States are not doing good work—they are doing good work no doubt—but even the States have got the disease of the Centre, namely, thinking in terms of big things and not going to the rock bottom and solving the problems which are facing the villagers.

[Shri D. C. Sharma]

I had the misfortune, I should say, of visiting some of these slum areas. I think most of these villages are in a sense slums, especially the Harijan quarters. But I do not talk about them; I talk about the slums I saw near some of these towns. I went to a place where the people—they were mostly refugees—were living in conditions which, I should say, were subhuman. One of the slums is near Pathankot, a great and expanding city. But near that city I found thatched roofs, without any school or medical facilities. I asked myself, how do these people do their work? They do their work, because the will to live is there, but they live in conditions which are very very insanitary and unwholesome.

We are building up industrial estates in each State. I do not know how many industrial estates are there, but in Punjab I know at least one place where there is an industrial estate. I think it is Ludhiana. But to build only one industrial estate in Punjab, I think, is not doing justice to Punjab. There are other places which are industrially very progressive. For instance, there is Batala, where we have a flourishing foundry industry. There are many persons interested in steel fabrication and other things; they are very progressive people. When you think of an industrial estate, I do not understand why you think only of a place which is already doing very well Why do you not try to level up a place like Batala by making it an industrial estate? There is something about our thinking which makes us think only of the big spots on the map of India and we ignore those small spots. I must say that small spots on the map of India are much more numerous than big spots and to think that by building up these big spots we will be able to solve the problem of small spots is not correct. It is like an Englishman saying, "You educate a few people at the top and the rest will follow". This theory has been applied to the villages and I think this will prove to be erroneous. You think only of a few big places and leave the rest to take care of themselves.

12 hrs.

Again, what do people want? My hon. friend over there said that housing should not be given priority. I do not agree with him. I would say that even if housing is not given top priority, at least the slums in these areas should be abolished. Another problem which people have to face is the lack of drinking water. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava referred to this matter in his speech. I found this problem in an acute form in many places in my constituency. There is a beautiful place, the capital of a small chieftain at one time, a place where one would like to go and spend some time, a very picturesque place, by which I was almost attracted. But the people said: we have no water to drink here; we drink pond water. Now, I would ask the Minister of Planning as to what they have done in this direction. I do not know whether it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Planning or the Ministry of Health, but anyhow the overall charge of these things rests with the Ministry of Planning. I would ask them whether they have at least got facts about those places in India where drinking water is not available. Have they collected any facts? If they have, have they drawn up any blueprint, so that the supply of good drinking water could be made available to those places in the near future. These are problems which confront us when we go about; these are problems which have got to be solved. Unless we solve these problems, I think the conception of a Welfare State will not be a very real thing.

Again I know that the community projects have done an immense amount of good to the rural population in our country. I know that. They have brought about a social revolution; at least, they are trying to bring about an agrarian revolution. They are giving the people new ideas about agriculture, about sanitation, about education and other things. It is possible

that the whole of India may be covered by these community projects and national extension service schemes by the end of the Second Plan. But I would ask one question? On what basis are these community projects distributed? I know the answer will be given: we leave it to the State Governments. Of course, you should leave certain things to the State Governments. But I would say that the work of planning should become a Central responsibility and the details of planning should not be left to the State Governments. If that is done, I know what would happen. It was said on the floor of the House that most of the community projects and national extension services in one State in India went to some favoured persons. I do not want to specify the State. I do not say that about Punjab. But I would only say that the community projects should be distributed in such a way that every part of the country gets their benefit. What do I find? I find that there are community project schemes in large numbers in one district, while there are few of them in another. Why has this happened? I want an equitable distribution of the good things which the Ministry of Planning has been doing; I want a judicial distribution. I do not want that some places should have favoured treatment and other places neglected, or given a step-motherly treatment.

So far as the community projects are concerned, they give a new hope to our people. If the Ministry of Planning cannot do anything else, it should at least see to it that the whole of India is covered by these community projects and national extension service schemes during the course of the Second Five Year Plan. It should be done straightway; it should not be left till the last year of the Plan. We should finish this work as soon as possible. Unless that is done, I am sure nothing will happen.

We have got so many small scale industries and cottage industries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri D. C. Sharma: But I would ask: has the Ministry of Planning....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member will please realise that it is the Planning Commission.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I see so many Ministers before me that they get on my nerves.

Our biggest problem is the problem of floods. I know that something is being done in some parts of India, so far as floods are concerned. But I must say that adequate steps are not being taken in some of the border districts to control these floods. Embankments are being built, but they are being built tardily. Flood control measures are being taken, but they are being taken in a very dilatory manner. In the meantime villages are being swept away by the floods.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The floods are more active than you are!

Shri D. C. Sharma: I want you to be more active than the floods.

The problem of flood control is facing some of the border districts of the Punjab and I am sure they are also to be found in other parts of India. I would, therefore, submit to the hon. the Finance Minister that these border districts should be given special treatment, because on their moral depends the moral of the whole of India.

Another point before I sit down, and it is this. We have been talking about a ceiling on income. I know we have been taking some steps in that direction. But there is another problem of minimum wage. The problem of minimum wage has got to be tackled. I know the Minister of Railways in his Budget Speech said that he had set apart a certain sum for the levelling up of the condition of the class IV employees. Now, I would say that this problem of minimum wage applies to a very large number of employees, not only in the private sector, but also in the public sector. It is a problem which

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covers a very large number of persons. I would therefor say without dogmatising, without going into the details, that if India is to justify herself as a welfare State she must tackle the problem of minimum wage in a rational manner as early as possible. That minimum should not apply only to those who work in the public sector but also to those who work in the private sector. We should do something about it. We should not keep people waiting for such a long time.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): There is already a Minimum Wages Act and that is in force.

Shri D. C. Sharma: But I would like that it should cover all kinds of employees, not only workers of particular types, but all kinds of workers, not only those whom you call white collared employees, but all employees. This is a problem which should receive top priority at our hands.

In the end, I would say that the border districts should be given a specially favoured treatment and they should become special charge of the Government of India.

श्री राधा रमण (दिल्ली नगर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस साल के बजट को पेश करते वक्त हमारे वित्त मंत्री जी ने हमें यह बतलाया है कि नए टैक्स लगाने के बारे में जो तजवीजें उनको वह मई में इस हाउस के सामने रखेंगे। इससे पहले कि मैं अपने वित्त मंत्री जी को इस बजट के लिए बधाई दूं मैं दो चार बातें उनके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूं।

सब से पहले तो मुझे यह अर्ज करना है कि आज हमें आजादी मिले हुए कोई १० साल हो गए हैं । आजादी मिलने से पहले हर हिन्दुस्तानी के दिल में यह ख्याल था कि आजादी मिलने के बाद भारतवर्ष में एक नए युग का प्रारम्भ होगा और उसका जीवन आरामदेह जीवन बन जाएगा । इससे भी इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता कि जब से हिन्दुस्तान आजाद हुआ है उस वक्त से लेकर अब तक हमारी सरकार ने बहुत सारे बड़े बड़े काम किए हैं और उन पर किसी भी हिन्दुस्तानी को गर्व का अनुभव हो सकता है और हमें उन पर फख्र है भी। लेकिन एक बात जो हमें नजर आती है वह यह है कि आप किसी भी गांव में चले जायें, किसी भी शहर में चले जायें, किसी भी इलाके में चले जायें लोगों के दिमागों पर, उनके दिलों पर, उनके चेहरों पर वह खुशी का इजहार नहीं है और वह रौनक नहीं है जिसके बारे में कि हम आजादी मिलने से पहले खींचा करते थे । यह ठीक है कि पहले पांच साला प्लान के दौरान में बहुत सारे काम पूरे हुए हैं और दूसरे प्लान के मालहल भी हम एक बहुत भारी रकम खर्च करने जा रहे हैं और उन मदों पर खर्च करने जा रहे हैं कि जिन मदों के जरिये हम यह महसूस करते हैं कि लोगों को जो इस मुल्क के अन्दर रहते हैं, आराम मिलेगा, वे कुछ शान्ति और संतोष का अनुभव करेंगे । लेकिन यह बात समझ में नहीं आती कि क्या वजह है कि बावजूद इसके कि हमें आजादी मिले हुए दस साल हो गए हैं, जब हम गरबत का खयाल करते हैं तो हम कोई बड़ा फर्क नहीं पाते और जब हम बीमारी का खयाल करते हैं तो भी कोई फर्क नहीं महसूस करते हैं । वैसी ही गुरबत आज है जैसी पहले थी और वैसी ही बीमारी आज है जैसी पहले थी । हमारी जो जरूरतें और तबलीफें आजादी के पहले थीं वे आज भी वैसी की वैसी बनी हुई हैं । उनमें हम कोई एप्रिशियेबल, कोई जाहिरा फर्क महसूस नहीं करते हैं । इस वास्ते सब से जरूरी बात यह है कि हम आम जनता को यह महसूस करायें कि उनको आजादी मिलने के बाद एक किस्म की राहत और एक किस्म का संतोष हासिल हुआ है ।

13.14 hrs.

[SHRI BARMAN *in the Chair*]

हम रुपया खर्च करते जा रहे हैं, टैक्सिस भी बढ़ाते जा रहे हैं और हमारे बजट भी हर साल बढ़ते ही जाते हैं लेकिन क्या वजह है कि

इन सब के बावजूद जो हम इस तरफ नतीजे देखना चाहते थे वे हासिल नहीं हुए हैं । यह काम हमारे वित्त मंत्रालय और वित्त मंत्री जी का है और मैं चाहता हूं कि वे इस मसले पर बहुत गम्भीरता और संजीदगी के साथ विचार करें । उन्हें सोचना है कि जो स्कीमें और जो प्राजक्टस कामयाबी से पूरे होते हैं उन से जो लोगों को खुशी होनी चाहिये वह क्यों नहीं हो रही है । और क्या कारण है कि लोगों को संतोष और राहत का अनुभव नहीं हो रहा है । इस सिलसिले में मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आपने जो बहुत सारी प्राजैक्टस को हाथ में लिया है और उन पर आप जो लाखों और करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करते हैं, वह जिस ढंग से करते हैं और जिस अमले की मार्फत करते हैं, उसको देखकर बहुत ज्यादा परेशानी भी होती है और दुःख भी । कहीं पर तो रुपया पानी की तरह बहाया जाता है और उसको अगर सही ढंग से खर्च किया जाए तो काफी बचत हो सकती है और इस रुपये का इस्तेमाल दूसरे जरूरी कामों में किया जा सकता है और वहीं पर ऐसा होता है कि खजाने में मंजूरशुदा रुपया पड़ा भी रहता है लेकिन न मालूम किन कारणों से वह रुपया उन हाथों तक नहीं पहुंचता जिन तक उसे पहुंचना चाहिये । इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि लोगों की परेशानी कायम रहती है । इस खामी को दूर करने के लिए मैं कोई मशीनरी की तजवीज तो आपके सामने नहीं रखना चाहता मगर मैं इस तरफ वित्त मंत्रालय का और वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान अवश्य खींचना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि मैं समझता हूं कि हमें रुपये की आवश्यकता है, हम चाहते हैं कि मुल्क के अन्दर ज्यादा से ज्यादा खर्च करके, ज्यादा से ज्यादा अच्छे नताइज निकालें । लेकिन अगर हम रुपया खर्च करते जायें और इसी ढंग से करते जायें और उस का पूरा पूरा फायदा उन लोगों को जिन के लिये उसे मंजूर किया गया है न पहुंचायें तो इस में कोई शक नहीं है कि हम को बाद में अफसोस ही होगा । इस का एक नतीजा यह भी निकलेगा कि इस रुपये का फायदा जिन लोगों को मिलना चाहिये जब उन को नहीं मिलेगा तो उन की तकलीफ वैसी की वैसी कायम रहेगी जिस के नतीजे के तौर पर उन की चिंता और उन का असन्तोष वैसे का वैसा बना रहेगा । मैं समझता हूं कि इस तरफ हमें अवश्य ध्यान देना चाहिये । जो रुपया गवर्नमेंट मंजूर करती है और जिन महकमों के लिये मंजूर करती है, उसे खर्च करते वक्त हमें इस बात का ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि इस में हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा किफायत किस तरह कर सकते हैं और जो वेस्टेज है, फिजूलखर्ची है, उस को किस तरह से रोक सकते हैं । ऐसी मदों में रुपया खर्च करने से जिन से कि आम लोगों की हालत कुछ बेहतर हो सकती है, उन के अन्दर खुशी की लहर दौड़ सकती है, उन को संतोष मिल सकता है, उन को राहत मिल सकती है, हमें पीछे नहीं रहना चाहिये—और ऐसे ऐतराज नहीं उठाने चाहियें जो टैक्नीकल हों या जो बेमानी हों और जिन से रुपया खजाने से निकालने में देरी लगती हो और इस रुपये को खर्च करने में रुकावट पैदा होती है । इस तरफ मैं वित्त मंत्रालय का और वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान खास तौर से दिलाना चाहता हूं क्योंकि मैं देखता हूं कि खजाने में रुपया पड़ा रहता है और चूंकि छोटासा टैक्नीकल ऐतराज उठ जाता है जिस से रुपया निकाला नहीं जा सकता है और जिस काम के लिये उसे खर्च करना होता है वह नहीं हो पाता है । दूसरी तरफ ऐसे केसिस होते हैं कि जहां पर रुपया खर्च करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती वहां पर इसे पानी की तरह बहाया जाता है और यह कोशिश की जाती है कि इसे ३१ मार्च के पहले पहले खर्च कर दिया जाये । ये दोनों चीजें खराब हैं और ये दोनों चीजें अच्छे नतीजे निकालने में बाधक होती हैं । इस वास्ते हमें कोई ऐसा तरीका, ऐसा साधन, ऐसा रास्ता निकालना चाहिये कि जिस से एक तो रुपया किफायत-शारी से खर्च हो और दूसरे जहां रुपया मौजूद है और सैक्शन भी है, उसे हम छोटे छोटे टैक्नीकल ऐतराज उठा कर रोके न रखें

[श्री राधा रमण]

बल्कि हमदर्दाना तरीके से, सीधे और सरल तरीके से उसे उस मद पर खर्च करने में मदद दें जिस के लिये कि उसे संवशन किया गया है।

हमारी आमदनी का एक बहुत बड़ा जरिया टैक्स हैं और उन में सेल्स टैक्स से भी एक बहुत बड़ी राशि वसूल होती है। सेल्स टैक्स के बारे में एक बहुत बड़ी जद्दोजहद हमारे मुल्क में होती रही है। इस पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर इस सिलसिले में हमने एक बिल भी पास किया था और उस वक्त यह चीज भी बहस मुबाहिसे में आई थी। वहां यह पास हुआ था कि सेल्स टैक्स सेन्टर वसूल करे और इन्टर सेल्स टक्स प्रदेश वसूल करे। इस से तिजारत पेशा लोगों को बहुत तकलीफ होती है और साथ ही कंज्यूमर को भी तकलीफ होती है और इस का निवारण करना चाहिये। यह टैक्स लेना और देना काफी तकलीफ-देह होता है। इस चीज को देखते हुए यह तजवीज की गई थी कि बजाय इस के कि सेल्स टैक्स और इन्टर स्टेट सेल्स टैक्स व्यापारियों से वसूल किया जाय यह बेहतर होगा कि जहां सोर्स है, वहीं पर इसे वसूल कर लिया जाय। मिसाल के तौर पर अगर आप कपड़े पर सेल्स टैक्स लेना चाहते हैं तो बेहतर होगा कि मिल में ही ले लें और साथ ही साथ अगर उस पर कोई और टैक्स लगाना चाहते हैं जैसे एक्साइज टैक्स, या इन्टर स्टेट सेल्स टैक्स, वह सब वहीं पर वसूल कर लें और व्यापारी से अलग अलग कर के न लें। यह बहुत झगड़े वाली बात है। मुझे कई मिसालें मालूम हैं जहां पर इस को लेकर खरीदार और दुकानदार में झगड़ा हुआ है। व्यापारी कहता है कि दस रुपये के कपड़े पर दो आने या चार आने या दस आने सेल्स टैक्स होता है जिसे कि खरीदार को देना है लेकिन खरीदार यह कहता है कि यह बिक्री कर तो है वहीं सेल्स टक्स है और इसे व्यापारी को ही देना चाहिये और मैं नहीं दूंगा। व्यापारी कहता है कि अगर मैं आप से यह कर नहीं लूंगा तो मैं हकूमत को कैस दूंगा।

गरज यह कि हमारा यह तरीका एक ऐसा तरीका है कि जिस में कोई आराम नहीं मिलता। व्यापारी बिक्रेता तथा खरीदार सभी दुःख उठाते हैं। अगर इन सारे टैक्सों को जमा कर के एक ही जगह यानी उत्पादन केन्द्र में वसूल कर लें तब मैं समझता हूं कि ये बहुत सारी तकलीफें जो व्यापारियों या खरीदारों को होती है, उनमें कमी हो सकेगी। इस सिलसिले में शायद आप लोगों को यह मालूम होगा कि दिल्ली में एक बहुत बड़ा एजिटेशन इस सिलसिले में हुआ था और चुनाव के दौरान में हमें बहुत ज्यादा शिकायत इस सिलसिले में अपने व्यापारी भाइयों की सुननी पड़ी और किसी को कुछ हासिल नहीं हुआ। अगर हम गौर करें तो हमें ऐसा महसूस होता है कि हम कोई ऐसा तरीका अख्तियार नहीं करना चाहते जिस से आम लोगों की तकलीफ कम हो और शिकायतें दूर हों। एक बात जो सरकार के दिमाग में बैठ जाती है, उसी पर अमल होता है। मैं यह चाहता हूं कि इस तरफ कुछ ध्यान दिया जाय और ऐसा करने से कोई नुकसान गवर्नमेंट को नहीं होगा बल्कि फायदा होगा। मैं जानता हूं कि हजारों रुपये सेल्स टैक्स के व्यापार मंडियों में नहीं दिये जाते, दुकानदार लेता नहीं और देने वाला देता नहीं अगर यह सब टैक्स उत्पादन केन्द्रों पर लग जाया करे तो सरकार उस सूरत में सारी रकम वसूल कर सके और व्यापारियों को आराम आये। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरफ हमारा वित्त मंत्रालय ध्यान दे और अगर यह तजवीज मुनासिब मालूम दे व्यापारियों को भी और खरीदारों को भी, तो यह मंजूर कर लेनी चाहिये।

इस के बाद मैं यह देखता हूं कि हमारे मुल्क में आज दो किस्म की विचारधारा चलती है। एक विचारधारा वह है कि जिसे महात्मा गांधी जी ने हमारे मुल्क के सामने रक्खा था और दूसरी विचारधारा वह है जो मगरिब से हमारे मुल्क में आई और अभी

तक कायम है। हम ने कोशिश की है कि इन दोनों का सन्तुलन करें और उन के बीच का एक रास्ता अख्तियार करें। ख्याल बड़ा नेक है और मैं यह समझता हूं कि हमारे मुल्क के हालात के मुताबिक भी है मगर मुश्किल यह है कि इन दोनों के बीच में आज हमारी सूरत कुछ ऐसी बनी है कि न हम उस मगरिब के रास्ते से पूरा फायदा उठा सकते हैं और न हम उस अपने तरीके से जो कि बापू ने हमारे सामने रक्खा था और जिस तरीके पर कि वे हमारे मुल्क की हुकूमत और शासन को चलाना चाहते थे। नतीजा यह निकल रहा है कि न हम इधर हैं और न उधर हैं, कोई बीच का रास्ता हम सही तौर पर अख्तियार कर सकें, यह बहुत मुश्किल नजर आता है।

हम देखते हैं कि हम ने अलग अलग मैदान में मसलन् कौटेज इंडस्ट्रीज की बाबत हम ने फैसला किया कि बहुत सारा रुपया इस में लगाया जाये और जहां मशीनरी को हौसला दिया जाय या प्रोत्साहन दिया जाय वहां छोटे छोटे घरेलू धंधों या कुटीर उद्योगों को भी प्रोत्साहन मिले, मगर हम यह देखते हैं कि हमारी जो कुटीर उद्योगों की या घरेलू धंधों की पालिसी है वह भी बहुत लड़खड़ाया करती है। इस में हमारा कोई विश्वास है या उस को हम बड़े दिल से और बड़ी लग्न से करें और अपना जी जन लगायें। ऐसा भी नजर नहीं आता और दूसरी तरफ जो मगरिब का तरीका है, जो साइंस का बढ़ता हुआ तरीका है, उस की ओर भी हम पूरी लग्न से काम नहीं करते। मेरा राय यह है कि इस सिलसिले में जहां हम खर्च करते हैं वहां हम खास किस्म के ऐसे लोग जो सुयोग्य हों काम करें और जिन के मन में लग्न हो, उस किस्म के आदमियों को हम पैदा करें। हमें ऐसे सुयोग्य और एक्सपर्ट्स काम करने के लिये चाहियें जो इन में सन्तुलन कर सकें और इन दोनों तरीकों में जो हमारी पालिसी है उस को पूरी तरह अमल में लायें। मैं ने यह देखा है कि गवर्नमेंट कुटीर उद्योग के लिये या घरेलू धंधों के लिये हर साल रुपये देती है और जब कुछ लोग इस में विश्वास रखते हैं और काम को चलाते हैं तो उन के रास्ते में अनेक दिक्कतें रखी जाती हैं जिस का नतीजा यह होता है कि जो आदमी काम करते हैं उन को बहुत दफा मायूसी होती है और उन को बहुत परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है और यहां तक कि कुछ तो काम ही छोड़ बैठते हैं। मैं कहता हूं कि इस मामले में हमारी गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी बिलकुल साफ़ हो जानी चाहिए और जो उसका अमला है, जो सरकार के मुलाजिम हैं, उनको यह हिदायत हो जानी चाहिए कि जो लोग किसी एक तरीके पर काम करते हैं, उनकी वह पूरे तरीके से मदद करें। ऐसा न होने से नतीजा यह होता है जैसा कि मैं ने आप से कहा कि न तो कुटीर उद्योग और घरेलू उद्योग पनप पाते हैं और न हम पश्चिमी ढंग की तरफ़ उतनी तेजी से काम कर पाते हैं जितनी तेजी से हमको करना चाहिये।

चौथी बात मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जब हुकूमत हमारी अपनी बनाई हुई मौजूद है और वह एक आज़ाद और खुद-मुख्तार हुकूमत है लेकिन उसमें भी हम यह देखते हैं कि हमारी जो सर्विसेज हैं उन सर्विसेज में छोटे छोटे डिस्क्रिमिनेशन, यानी भिन्नता दिखाई देती है जिसकी कि वजह से बहुत सारे मुलाजमीन और कर्मचारी शिकायत रखते हैं। जैसे आपने पहले फर्स्ट ग्रेड, सेकेंड ग्रेड, थर्ड ग्रेड और फोर्थ ग्रेड के कर्मचारियों के वास्ते पहले एक सर्विस कानून बनाया हुआ था, अब आपने दूसरा सर्विस कानून बनाया है और होता यह है कि कहीं तो किसी मुलाजिम को पुराने तरीके पर रखा जाता है तो किसी को नये तरीके पर रखा है और जिसकी वजह से उनको शिकायत होती है। पुराना तरीके वाला मुलाजिम या नये तरीके वाला मुलाजिम नुक्सान उठाता है। मैं समझता हूं कि इन सारी सर्विसेज में जो असमानताएं और भिन्नताएं हैं, उनको दूर करना चाहिए ताकि जो मुलाजिम

[श्री राधा रमण]

हमारी सरकार की सेवा करता है या उसमें रहता है उसको किसी किस्म की इनजस्टिस या अनफेयरनैस नजर न आये । बहुत सारे मुलाजिमों को जिस वक्त नियुक्त किया जाता है उस वक्त उनके साथ कुछ फेवर हो जाता है या रिआयत दिखा दी जाती है, खैर उसको तो छोड़िये लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि जो एक कानून बनाइये और जो एक तरीका सर्विसेज के लिए अख्तियार करें, उसमें कोई इनजस्टिस और कोई अनफेयरनैस नहीं रहनी चाहिए । ऐसे बहुत सारे केसेज है जिनके कि मेमोरेंडम या रिप्रेजेंटेशंस हुकूमत के पास भेजे गये हैं, उनको जल्द से जल्द तय किया जाय और यह डिस्क्रिमिनेशन को जो शिकायत मुलाजिमों की है, उसको दूर करना बहुत जरूरी है ।

एक बात जो मैं आप से और अर्ज करना चाहता हूं वह दिल्ली से सम्बन्ध रखती है । दिल्ली सारे भारतवर्ष की राजधानी होने का गौरव रखती है और हुकूमत की ख्वाहिश यह है कि दिल्ली एक ऐसी मिसाल हमारे मुल्क के अंदर बने, एक ऐसा शहर या एक ऐसा राज्य बने कि जिसमें हर एक इंसान को यह कहने का मौका मिले कि वाकई यह एक ऐसी जगह है जहां हर किस्म से एक आजाद हिन्दुस्तानी को जिस तरह रहना चाहिये, वह रहता है और उसे तरक्की करने का हर किस्म का मौका मिलता है मगर मुझे अफसोस इस बात का है कि बावजूद इसके कि हर साल हम यह मामला अपनी हुकूमत के सामने रखते हैं और यह बताते है कि दिल्ली जैसी नगरी में बहुत सारी कमजोरियां हैं और हमें शर्म आती है उन चीजों को देखते हुए, लेकिन वह अभी तक दूर नहीं हो पाई । उनमें सबसे अव्वल बात तो यह दिल्ली की गंदी बस्तियों की है । यह हमारी दिल्ली की गंदी बस्तियां, इनमें से कुछ तो १०० या ५० वर्ष से चली आती हैं और कुछ इनमें से ऐसी है जो नई बनती जा रही हैं । इन गंदी बस्तियों की बाबत मेरे भाई श्री डी० सी० शर्मा और पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव ने भी कुछ जिक्र किया है और मैं भी यह कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता कि इन गंदी बस्तियों को देख कर किसी भी आजाद हिन्दुस्तानी का सिर नीचा हो सकता है । हमारी इस दिल्ली नगरी में ऐसी ऐसी गंदी बस्तियां मौजूद हैं जहां कि २४ घंटे में कुछ मिनटों के लिए भी सूर्य की किरणें नहीं आ पाती हैं । जहां चांदनी नहीं है, जिन्हें ब्लैक होल्स कहा जा सकता है । वहां पर कोई आराम नहीं है, वहां पानी नहीं, वहां पाखाना नहीं । जो स्त्रियां वहां रहती हैं उन को एक एक और दो दो मील अपनी रोजाना की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए जाना पड़ता है । मैं बार बार इस बात को सामने रखता हूं, मगर जो रकम इस के लिए रखी जाती है वह बिल्कुल नाकाफी होती है और उस से कोई सुधार कार्य भी नहीं हो सकता गंदी बस्तियों को दूर करने का सवाल तो दीगर है । दिल्ली में जमीनों को फ्रीज कर दिया गया है क्योंकि उस के वास्ते एक मास्टर प्लैन बनाई गई है । मास्टर प्लैन की बात सुनते सुनते पांच वर्ष गुजर गए । एक समय था जब कहा गया था कि वह बिल्कुल तैयारी पर है । छः महीने पहले थोड़ी उम्मीद दिखाई गई कि वह चालू होगा, लेकिन मास्टर प्लैन कब चालू होगा, किस तरह चालू होगा, यह बात नजर नहीं आती । इसलिए मैं अपने वित्त मंत्रियों से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि अगर वह हिन्दुस्तान को प्रगति की ओर ले जाना चाहते हैं तो उनको दिल्ली से ही इसकी शुरुआत करनी चाहिए क्योंकि दिल्ली राजधानी है, यह वह जगह है जहां वे ३६५ दिन रहते हैं । अगर वे दिल्ली को दुरुस्त नहीं कर सकते तो सारे देश को उन्नति की ओर ले जाने का उन का दावा बिल्कुल झूठा साबित हो जाएगा ।

देहली में पानी का यह हाल है कि साल में तीन चार महीने किसी किसी इलाके में पानी बिल्कुल नहीं मिलता । तिमंजिले पर तो पानी का चढ़ना नामुमकिन ही है, लेकिन

नीचे भी ऐसी कई जगहें हैं जहां पानी नहीं मिलता। यमुना का पानी मई और जून के महीने में करीब करीब बिल्कुल सूख जाता है और शहर को पानी मुश्किल से मिलता है। नई दिल्ली में तो चूंकि यहां का इन्तजाम खास किया जाता है, शायद इतनी दिक्कत न महसूस होती हो, लेकिन अगर आप पुरानी दिल्ली के इलाकों को देखें तो मालूम होगा कि वहां पर किस तरह से इंसानों की गुजर होती है जो कि वहां पर लाखों की तादाद में बसते हैं। कई वर्षों से यह बात सुनने में आ रही है कि यमुना का पानी बढ़ाया जाएगा, भाखरा नंगल से पानी छोड़ा जाएगा, मगर वह भी नहीं आता है ताकि लोगों को कुछ आराम मिले। मैं समझता हूं कि इस तरफ तवज्जह देना बहुत जरूरी है।

बिजली के बारे में भी बहुत कुछ आश्वासन इस बात का मिला था कि भाखरा नंगल से हम को बिजली मिलेगी। दस हजार कीलोवाट मिलने के बाद यह फैसला हो गया कि अब जल्दी और बिजली मिलने वाली नहीं है। जो उम्मीदें हम लोग लगाए बैठे थे कि भाखरा की बिजली से दिल्ली में इंडस्ट्रियल सेंटर-प्राइजेज बढ़ेंगी, उन को बिजली मिलेगी, वह भी जाती नजर आती है। मैं समझता हूं कि इस की तरफ भी हम लोगों को ध्यान देना चाहिए।

एजुकेशन के सिलसिले में बार बार यह कहा जाता है कि दिल्ली के अन्दर प्राइमरी एजुकेशन कम्पलसरी है, लेकिन एजुकेशन कम्पलसरी होने के बाद जितना रुपया खर्च होना चाहिए, वह नहीं होता है। कमेटियां कहती हैं कि हमारे पास रुपया नहीं है और केन्द्रीय सरकार कहती है कि हमारे पास रुपया नहीं है। हालत आज ऐसी है कि एक एक मदरसे में जहां २५ विद्यार्थियों के बैठने की जगह है, वहां ५०-५० बैठते हैं। फैक्ट्रियों की तरह से वहां पर दो दो शिफ्ट्स लगती हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि जो लोग वहां पढ़ते हैं उन्हें आप कैसे अच्छे नागरिक बना सकते हैं, खास कर राजधानी में, जहां आप की जुम्मेदारी और जगह से ज्यादा है। इसलिए मैं यह अर्ज करूंगा कि जेनरल बजट के मौके पर ही हम इस किस्म के खयाल अपने वित्त मंत्रालय को दे सकते हैं और यह कह सकते हैं कि इस तरफ उन की तवज्जह होनी बहुत जरूरी है क्योंकि अगर दिल्ली राजधानी में हम वह हालात पैदा नहीं कर सकते जो कि एक आजाद देश के लिए मुनासिब हों और कम से कम जरूरी हों, तो फिर देश के दीगर सूबों में और दीगर इलाकों में किस तरह हम यह उम्मीद कर सकते हैं कि वह हालात पैदा हो सकेंगे और हमारी पांच साला प्लैन कामयाब हो सकेगी, जिसे कि हम ने अभी चालू किया है और जिस पर हमारी बहुत सी उम्मीदें कायम हैं। आज दुनिया के सामने हम यह मिसाल रखना चाहते हैं कि हम बहुत तेजी से आइन्दा पांच सालों में अपने कदम बढ़ा सकेंगे लेकिन हम किस तरह से इस बात को पूरा कर सकेंगे वह देखना है।

मैं बहुत अदब से वित्त मंत्रियों से यह अर्ज करूंगा कि दिल्ली के मामले में जो तवज्जह अब तक की गई है वह बिल्कुल नाकाफी है और वह यहां की जरूरतों के मुताबिक नहीं है और इस पर उन को खास तौर पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

सेठ अचल सिंह (जिला आगरा—पश्चिम): अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस वक्त बजट पर जो जेनरल डिस्कशन चल रहा है उस के सम्बन्ध में मैं हाउस के दो चार मिनट लेना चाहूंगा।

अभी यहां पर हाउसेज और स्लम्स की चर्चा चल रही थी। हमारा भारतवर्ष बहुत बड़ा देश है और इस में करीब डेढ़, दो सौ वर्ष तक अंग्रेजों की हुकूमत रही। उन्होंने इस बात पर कभी ध्यान नहीं दिया कि जो गरीब आदमियों की बस्तियां हैं उन में कुछ तरक्की की जाए। वह तो हमेशा अपनी आसाइश के वास्ते और बड़े आदमियों की आसाइश के वास्ते काम करते रहे। साथ साथ जो शहरों में चुंगियां और कारपोरेशन थे उन्होंने भी बड़े

[सेठ अचल सिंह]

आदमियों की बस्तियों और मोहल्लों का ज्यादा खयाल किया, गरीब आदमियों की बस्तियों का खयाल नहीं किया। लेकिन चूंकि अब यहां गणतंत्र राज्य है, जनता का राज्य है इसलिए हमारे हाउस ने और कांग्रेस ने सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न आफ सोसाइटी का एक प्रस्ताव पास किया है और उस में यह निश्चय किया है कि वह गिरे हुए दलित वर्ग को उठाएगी और बड़े आदमियों को नीचे लाएगी, एक मध्यम वर्ग पैदा करेगी। यह बहुत खशी की बात है लेकिन साथ ही बड़ा मुश्किल है कि ३६ करोड़ आदमियों वाले मुल्क में बहुत थोड़े समय में यह चीज पैदा की जाए। यहां पर जो सेकेन्ड फाइव इयर प्लैन है, उस में इस बात की गुंजाइश है और इस के वास्ते रुपया रखा गया है कि जो स्लम्स है या गन्दी बस्तियां हैं उनका सुधार किया जाए। इसी तरीके से अभी राधा रमण जी जिक्र कर रहे थे दिल्ली की बस्तियों का। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो आगरा शहर है, जो कि इंटरनैशनल शहर है और उत्तर प्रदेश के पांच कैबाल शहरों में से है, वहां रोज सैकड़ों विदेशी और हजारों देशी लोग नगर को देखने के लिए आते है। लेकिन आगरा बहुत ही बैकवर्ड है। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं ने कई पत्र भी उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार को लिखे कि वहां पर बहुत सुधार की जरूरत है क्योंकि जो विदेशी लोग वहां जाते है वह लोग बड़ा बुरा ख्याल ले कर जाते है। वहा के लिए अभी तक कोई प्लैन नही है।

मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि पिछले २२ वर्षों से चुंगी का चुनाव वहां पर नहीं हुआ है, पंद्रह वर्ष से चुंगी सुपरसीडेड है। इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट बना, उस को भी खत्म कर दिया गया और अब एक ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटर काम कर रहा है। वहां पर चौथाई बस्ती नालों में बसती है जहां सलम्स हैं और उन की हालत इतनी गन्दी और बुरी है कि कोई आदमी वहां पर खड़ा नहीं हो सकता है। पता नहीं वे आदमी वहां किस तरह रहते हैं। चुनाव में जब हम जाते हैं तो वह कहते हैं कि आप हमारे प्रतिनिधि है, आप ने हमारे लिए क्या किया? हमारा सिर नीचे झुक जाता है और हमें खामोश हो जाना पड़ता है। यह हालत बड़े बड़े शहरों की है, छोट शहरों की तो बात ही क्या है। इसलिए मैं वित्त मंत्रालय से चाहूंगा कि वह इस बात पर जितना ध्यान कर सकता है करे कि जो स्लम्स हैं या गन्दी बस्तियां हैं उन की तरफ पूरी तवज्जह दी जाए ताकि हम ने जो प्रस्ताव पास किया है सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न आफ सोसायटी का उसे हम पूरा कर सकें। मिसाल के तौर पर मैं आप को बतलाऊं कि जो काम राज्य सरकारें किया करती है वह किसी प्लैन से नहीं करती हैं और करती भी है तो वह पूरी नहीं होती। अभी आगरा में लेबर के वास्ते बारह सौ मकान बनाए गए है। दो वर्षों से वह मकान खाली पड़े हुए है। अगर उन का किराया १० रु० प्रति मकान भी रखा जाए तो बारह हजार रु० महीना होता है और लगभग डेढ़ लाख रु० सालाना होता है। उन मकानों में न बिजली है और न पानी है। इस तरह से हमारा रुपया वेस्ट होता है, जैसा कि हमारे पूर्व वक्ता बता रहे थे कि रुपया हमारे यहां पानी के मूल्य बहाया जाता है और लाभ उस से कुछ नही होता। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि वित्त मंत्रालय स्टेट सरकारों का ध्यान भी इस ओर आकृष्ट करे।

साथ साथ मैं सेल्स टैक्स के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूं। सेल्स टैक्स के बारे में व्यापारी समाज में बड़ी उथल पुथल है क्योंकि हमारी जनता डाइरेक्ट टैक्स देने की आदी नहीं है। वह इनडाइरेक्ट टैक्स दे सकती है। सेल्स टैक्स की वजह से बड़ी गड़बड़ी होती है। इसीलिए मैं ने पिछली मर्तबा हाउस में सुझाव दिया था कि इनडाइरेक्ट टैक्स होना चाहिए जो कि एक्साइज ड्यूटी के रूप में हो क्योंकि सेल्स टैक्स की चोरियां बहुत होती हैं और इनकम टैक्स की भी चोरी होती है। इसलिए जनता का भी नुकसान होता है और गवर्नमेंट का भी नुकसान होता है। इसलिए सेल्स टक्स के बजाय एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगाई जाए तो

से जनता को राहत मिलेगी और गवर्नमेंट को पूरा पूरा रुपया मिलेगा ।

Shri Telkikar (Nanded): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me thank you for the opportunity you were kind enough to give me to speak on the Budget under consideration. No doubt, it is a great privilege and a matter of pride for all of us who have the honour to be Members of this, the first elected Parliament of India, to participate in a variety of activities connected with this august House and the Central Government.

Today while speaking on the Budget, I have a feeling of appreciation for this great country, its tremendous problems and the way in which our Government tackle them successfully. In spite of the temptation to find fault with the administration and the executive and to point out a mistake here and a mistake there and to give some suggestions on matters, some important and some trivial, I cannot be blind to the overall progress, of which any Government can be proud. The history of the Parliament and the Central Government for the last five years is nothing but a grand record of gallant victories over great difficulties at home and abroad. I heartily congratulate the Government on their success.

I was not contesting any seat in either any State legislature or the Central Legislature, but I had a chance to go to the voters because I participated in the election campaign for the propaganda work of Congress candidates. Then, of course, I had to contact voters. What did I find there? Of course, I wanted to tell them about the achievements of the Government, but they could not appreciate them at all. They did not know the great things, the great achievements we have made elsewhere in India, as for example, the river valley projects, the shipyard at Visakhapatnam, the big factory at Chittaranjan, the Research Institutes we have established so far and so on. There are so many different things of which the country can be proud. But they do not know about these. What is their criterion of progress? The villager knows one thing. He can see towards himself the individual progress, and there he finds no change. Then he goes to his family; there also he does not find any change. Then he goes to the village —this is what he will do at the most —and if he does not find any progress there, he says that there is no progress at all. This is what the villagers used to say.

Why is this so? I know, of course, that in spite of the great efforts of the Planning Commission to develop and make progress in different fields, they could not go to the villages. They have made progress in agriculture, in transport and all other walks of life. Even then, they could not contact the villages. So the villagers, of course, could not feel these things. Why should this be so? The progress that touches developmental work for the lowest stratum of society, especially the innumerable farmers in lakhs of villages in India, is the developmental work done through community projects. But what is the condition of these community projects?

There are some matters for consideration. For example, how are these community project blocks formed, how is the work conducted, how should it be conducted and how the people expect that the work should be conducted? What I found was this. Of course, there are community project blocks in our parts also. But we do not find anywhere the progress that is necessary. First of all, who are these development officers? All of them are not trained officers. Sometimes a Deputy Collector is deputed as Development Officer. He is not interested in villages at all. He wants to live in big cities. They are always in the big cities. Occasionally, they go to the villages. They have no interest at all in the work. So they cannot do the work properly.

Again these development departments which are concerned with development work do not, of course, have

[Shri Telkikar]

any plan. They should fix targets and try to achieve them. For example, take the health and medical department. The officers should go to the villages, find out different areas, investigate what are the epidemics and diseases particular to a particular region and should wipe them out by preventive or curative measures. But this is not being done at all. The same is the case with the forest department. The department is situated at the headquarters of the district. The officer concerned must also go to the villages, especially in the block, and if he finds some mountains barren, he should try to afforest them, at least one for an example. That would be an indication of progress. But they do not do even that. So is the case with the agricultural department.

In this way, there are several problems of the villagers which can be tackled by these officers very successfully if only those officers go to the villages and investigate. The villagers do not know the use of fertilisers. People do not know what are the improved methods of agriculture. They do not know the importance of conservation of soil, the benefits of contour bunding and so on. These are matters in which the officers can help them. But nobody goes there. What happens is this. People are never contacted; they are not consulted at all in these matters. Plans are imposed from above. Of course, those plans are carried out according to the whims of the officers. This being the case, people do not realise the greatness of the plans and the utility of the community projects.

Then again, there are the village level workers. What is the position about these village level workers? They are expected to live in villages, but I am very sorry to say that none of these village level workers lives in a village. Why? Because they do not have cinema theatres there, their wives do not live in villages where there are no facilities for water and no good things to see and no educational facilities. So these people live at the district headquarters and occasionally go to the villages to do some work for which they are deputed by higher authorities. On the contrary, if they live in the villages, they can tackle several problems of these farmers; they can define their difficulties and find solutions for them. They can also impress upon the villagers the utility and benefits of different things. There are several boons which our Government are prepared to give to these people. But they do not understand the importance of these boons, and that is why they are not benefited by these things.

My suggestion is that the Central Government should issue instructions to this effect to the development officers. If any village level worker does not live in village he should not be paid his salary at all. From my own experience in several instances, I find that the village level workers are always absent from the villages. They always used to live in the district headquarters. In this way, we see that work suffers. If we take an overall view, we find that as much work is not done as is expected by the people at the higher level.

I have nothing more to say. I again congratulate Government on the achievements I have enumerated and hope that they will issue instructions on the lines I have indicated to ensure the improvement of the functioning of the development departments.

Shri Mohiuddin (Hyderabad City): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the First Five Year Plan concluded with great success. The chief characteristic of the First Five Year Plan was that we witnessed the economic progress of the country and a very large investment in the country together with financial stability of the country.

The Second Five Year Plan commenced in 1956. But, unfortunately,

the first year of the Plan has witnessed a very great inbalance in the economy of the country.

This year is a crucial stage for development. The success of the Second Five Year Plan will be of very great importance for future development. I know that the expenditure on the Plan has progressively increased from year to year. In 1953-54, the combined expenditure by the Centre and by the States was Rs. 1,019 crores while it is estimated to have gone up in 1956-57 to Rs. 1,894 crores. The deficit in the Centre has increased from Rs. 142 crores in 1954-55 to Rs. 216 crores in 1956-57. Similarly, the note circulation has considerably increased. These economic factors of increased expenditure and increased note circulation have very strongly been pressing on the economic conditions of the country. Industrial production has no doubt increased considerably and has been progressively increasing during the last 5 or 6 years. But the savings, as the Finance Minister has said in his speech, have not kept pace with the increasing investment in the economy of the country. So, the problem before the Finance Minister at this crucial stage is that while we continue to make progressively larger investments in the economy of the country, the inflationary pressure should be reduced as far as possible. Now, the Finance Minister has, of course, undertaken a very bold task and we hope that with his ingenuity and resourcefulness we would be able to tide over the difficulties we are facing at the present moment.

One very important factor is that there is a shortfall in agricultural production in the country. The food front is rather very weak. Food production and agricultural production on the whole have been relatively stationary since 1953-54. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that though the national income of India in the First Five Year Plan from 1951-1956 had increased by 18 per cent. the national income in real terms increased only by 1·3 per cent. in 1954-55 as against a rise of 6 per cent. in 1953-54. This is an important phenomenon which has to be carefully examined to find out what are the reasons for this sudden decrease in the rate of progress since 1954-55. And, you will find that the main reason was that the agricultural production has not been progressing at the same rate as it had in the previous years. No doubt, weather and untimely rains have been mainly responsible for the failure of *kharif* crops in various parts of the country and there has been less production especially in the case of millets and other small grains. But we have the bare facts before us that the relatively small increase or the relatively stationary level of production of agriculture is the main cause of the crisis that we are facing at the present moment. And, I hope the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture will look into these very important matters and see that the rate of progress in agriculture is kept up at as high a level as possible.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture has been reorganised and the Ministry of Community Projects has been integrated with the Ministry of Agriculture and I hope that they have evolved some scheme by which the Community Projects Administration will lay greater emphasis on higher productivity in agriculture. The Community Projects Administration has been laying greater emphasis on roads, school buildings and other amenities in the villages. It is desirable and necessary that greater emphasis should be laid on the increased productivity in agriculture, on field technique for greater production per acre of rice, of wheat and other crops. Unless the cultivator or the villager sees that he is getting more output on account of the improvements introduced by the advice of the Government, he will lose interest in the community projects or any other project.

The inflationary pressure that we are witnessing today since 1956 is no

[Shri Mohiuddin]

doubt not only an internal phenomenon but is also due to a certain extent to factors outside this country.

14 HRS.

The boom conditions in 1955 and 1956 have been witnessed all over the world, in European countries and in America. It has been reported that the boom conditions in European countries have been very intense. All over the European and American countries the boom conditions have this characteristic that they arose principally from higher levels of consumption and higher investment. We find the same condition in India; boom conditions in India are principally due to higher investment, and I hope, to a certain extent to higher consumption.

Another important feature of this boom that prevails in the world is that the period of cheap money has come to an end. The cheap money policy that was adopted since the thirties, after the great depression has a very interesting history. The cheap money conditions have now disappeared and we are now witnessing new development; the rates of interest have gone up, the bank rates have gone up, the rates of borrowing have gone up and the rates of public borrowing are increasing and will increase every day. With these drastic changes in the monetary conditions of the world as a whole, and of India, particularly, we have got to examine the conditions in which our monetary policy is worked. One important aspect of our monetary conditions is that in spite of the fact that our money circulation has increased considerably, there has not been a proportionate increase in the bank deposits. The bank deposits have, no doubt, increased to a certain extent, but the increase is not as expected or should be. The demand and time liabilities of the scheduled banks have increased from Rs. 639 crores in 1952-53 to Rs. 777 crores in 1955-56, that is an increase of about Rs. 147 crores, while the currency in circulation has increased by about Rs. 500 crores. Banks have a tendency to blame the Government that they are drawing away the surplus funds from the public into the taxes or into other State organisations like the Insurance Corporations and so on, but I hope that the private banks will put in greater efforts to attract deposits from the public, so that the cash base for their advances should be strengthened. The ratio of advance to deposits has gone up to about 71 per cent. at the end of 1956. Unless more deposits come into the banks, this situation cannot last very long. The situation regarding the banks, I think requires special consideration by the Finance Ministry, and I hope, they will look into it, so that the banks other than the State Bank of India may try and open new branches and attract more deposits for the good of the country.

The reorganisation of the States during the last 1½ years, as far as I could see, has caused a set-back to the progress of the Second Five Year Plan. The reorganisation has been completed, but there are so many problems that are left over after the reorganization has been effected. The services have got to be reorganised, the laws have to be adjusted, the budgets have to be examined to see where they are lacking in the proper distribution of funds in the different areas. The State budgets have been recently presented to their respective assemblies. The Budget of the Andhra Pradesh was presented the day before yesterday, and I find there is a deficit of about Rs. 5½ crores. These reorganised States which had a great jolt in the first year of the Second Five Year Plan require special consideration by the Central Government. I am especially referring to Andhra Pradesh because they have heavy deficits. Unless the Central Government comes to their help.....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: How?

Shri Mohiuddin: Well, the deficit is to be met. For example we had suggested that the distributable part of the excise duties should be increased,

so that a State like the Andhra Pradesh which contributes a very large amount of excise duty on tobacco gets a larger share for the development of that part of the country, where tobacco is grown. That was one suggestion. I do not know whether the Finance Minister or the Finance Commission will accept it, but still there are so many problems which the States have got to face and I am sure that unless the Central Government and especially the Finance Minister looks upon these problems with greater sympathy, the difficulties of the State Governments will increase every day.

The saving as the Finance Minister has said have not kept pace with the investment which the Governments are making for the economic development of the country. The small savings schemes have been working for the last five or six years and they have made progress, but not at a rate which will cover a part of the gap which is necessary for the development of the country. I am sure that the Finance Minister will find various ways and means of increasing the savings in the country. But one suggestion that I have to make is that the provident fund schemes, as they are operating for the factory workers, should be extended to other sectors of the population. The provident fund schemes have been providing quite a large amount to the Central Government, and if these compulsory provident fund schemes are extended to other employees, for example, the employees of establishments governed by the Shops and Establishments Act, I am sure a large amount of compulsory savings will be coming in for development purposes.

I hope that these suggestions will be taken into consideration, and with these words, I close my speech.

श्री देवगम (चैंबस्सा—रक्षित—अनुसूचित आदिम जातियां) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझे जनरल बजट के डिस्कशन में अपने कुछ विचार प्रकट करने का अवसर दिया । शायद इस पार्लियामेंट में यह मेरा आखिरी भाषण होगा क्योंकि मैं इस बार चनाव में खड़ा नहीं हुआ हूं ।

मुझे यह अफ़सोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि मैंने इन पिछले पांच वर्षों में हर एक स्पीच में आदिवासियों की समस्याओं और उनकी कठिनाइयों का जिक्र किया है । हमारी प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में आदिवासियों की उन्नति करने के लिए अनेक योजनाएं दी हुई थीं परन्तु उनमें से कोई भी स्कीम कार्य रूप में परिणत नहीं हुई ।

यह प्रतिज्ञा की गई थी कि आदिवासियों को कुछ खनिज खोदने का भी हक़ दिया जाय लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि आज तक साधारणे से साधारण खनिज जैसे पत्थर खोदना, यह साधारण काम भी हमारे भाइयों को नहीं दिया गया ।

यह भी प्रतिज्ञा की गई थी कि ट्राइब्ल यूथ्स को ट्रेन करने के लिए फ़ारेस्ट स्कूल्स खोले जायेंगे और यह स्कूल आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में खोले जाने थे जिससे कि आदिवासी युवकों को वन रक्षा के विषय में उचित शिक्षण मिल सके, अपने वनों की रक्षा वे आप ही कर सकें और उससे फ़ायदा उठा सकें। लेकिन मुझे बड़े दुःख के साथ यह कहना पड़ता है कि भारत के किसी भी आदिवासी क्षेत्र में ऐसे फ़ारेस्ट स्कूल नहीं खुले हैं । इन फ़ारेस्ट स्कूलों के खोले जाने के सम्बन्ध में फ़र्स्ट फ़ाइव इयर प्लान के चैप्टर ३७ में जिक्र आया है ।

फ़ारेस्ट प्रोडेक्ट्स का भी फ़ायदा बाहर के ही लोग, आउटसाइडर्स ही उठाते हैं । फ़ारेस्ट प्रोडेक्ट्स के लीज होल्डर्स आउटसाइडर्स होते हैं । सिवाय घास जिससे कागज वगैरह बनता है, बांस, जिसका कि उपयोग सबको मालूम है, इन मेजर प्रोडेक्ट्स को

[श्री देवगन]

निकालने वाले बाहर के ही लोग है और हमारे आदिवासी भाइयों को इन आउटसाइडर्स के यहां कुलियों की हैसियत से काम करना पड़ता है और आज के दिन हमारे आदिवासी भाई बहुत गरीबी और कष्टमय जीवन व्यतीत कर रहे है । बाजार भी बाहर वालों के पास हैं । यद्यपि बाजारों का नीलाम हर वर्ष होता रहता है लेकिन वे अपनी गरीबी के कारण इन बाजारों को नहीं ले सकते हैं । हम देखते हैं और यह कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकते कि इस सरकार ने कोई ऐसा काम नहीं किया जिससे कि आदिवासियों की आर्थिक अवस्था सुधरे ।

शिक्षा के विषय में भी हम देखते हैं कि जैसी उन्नति होनी चाहिए थी नहीं हुई है । हालांकि फ़र्स्ट फ़ाइव इयर प्लान में कहा गया था कि आदिवासियों को बेसिक एजुकेशन उनकी मातृभाषा के मीडियम में दी जाय मगर अभी तक ऐसा नहीं किया गया और न ही आदिवासी लेखकों को आदिवासी भाषाओं में टेक्स्ट बुक्स लिखने का प्रोत्साहन मिला । अब सेकेंड फ़ाइव इयर प्लान में भी एक खास अध्याय है जिसमें कि बहुत सी प्रतिज्ञाएं की गई हैं । इन प्रतिज्ञाओं में एक बहुत महत्व की बात यह है कि सरकार यह महसूस करती है कि आदिवासियों के बीच में काम करने वाले सोशल वर्कर्स आदिवासी ही होने चाहियें और उन को इस बार उचित शिक्षा दे कर के, सामाजिक शिक्षण दे कर के आदिवासियों को आदिवासी अंचलों में काम करने के लिए नियुक्त करने की सरकार ने

14.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

प्रतिज्ञा की है । मैं देख रहा हूं कि जब प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में सरकार द्वारा की गई प्रतिज्ञाएं भी अभी पूरी नहीं हुई हैं तो मुझे डर लगता है कि सेकेंड फ़ाइव इयर प्लान की प्रतिज्ञाएं भी कहीं अपूर्ण न रह जायं ।

हम देखते हैं कि किसानों की हालत अभी भी खराब है और वह पहले जैसी खराब है । उनके उत्थान के लिए बहुत से कार्य होते हैं यह सही बात है । सिंचाई की कुछ योजनाएं चल रही हैं लेकिन फ़ूटफुल (लाभप्रद) नहीं होतीं । मैं ने इस सदन में अपने भाषणों में यह कहा है कि हमारे पहाड़ी जिले सिंहभूमि की सिंचाई की योजना ऐसी होती है कि जो तालाब बनता है उस तालाब से पानी बाहर खेतों में नहीं जाता है और जिसका कि नतीजा यह होता है कि वह पानी तालाब की सिंचाई करता है खेतों की नहीं । संक्षेप में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे आदिवासी भाइयों की हालत जैसी की तैसी है । सरकार यह भी चाहती थी कि उन्हें १९६१ तक में अन्य उन्नत जातियों के स्तर पर उठा कर ले आयें । उन के स्तर, लिविंग कंडिशन्स, को आगे बढ़ाएं । लेकिन सरकार का अब तक जो काम हुआ है उस से मुझे डर लगता है कि उन की इतनी उन्नति नहीं हो सकेगी । इस कारण मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस आदिवासी कल्याण कार्य को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उचित कदम उठाएं । मैं देख रहा हूं कि अब तक जो काम हुआ है उस में केवल रुपयों की बरबादी हुई है । मैं आशा करता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इस की उचित व्यवस्था करेंगे ।

Dr. J. N. Parekh (Zalawad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has rightly observed in his Budget speech that our economy has passed and is passing through a period of stress and strain. The inflationary pressure is being felt not only here but in other parts of the world also. In India, the prices are rising. The prices of foodgrains are soaring high and the prices of commodities are also very high. This has natural impact on our economy. No doubt, efforts are being made to check that tendency. But, with more money being pumped into our economy, the inflationary pressure is bound to show itself.

As has been shown, the present year's capital and revenue deficit

will be of the order of Rs. 365 crores. It is certainly very high. Unless we resort to borrowing and taxation and foreign aid and deficit financing in a judicious manner, we are not likely to reach the targets. We may have to prune down our Plan or spread our Plan over more years. The limits of taxation have been reached, in my opinion. Borrowing programme also cannot be restored to in the present market conditions. The fate of the State and the Central loans sometime back was very well known. There were no buyers in some places. We cannot depend so much on foreign aid and a judicious watch over the situation is warranted. I am sure that our Finance Minister is quite alive to this situation.

The saving has not been to the expected levels. With the rise in the circulation of notes, our bank deposits have not risen. More demands have been made on the credits and more funds are required. There has been a scramble for funds by the banks. The call deposit rates are going higher and there is almost no correlation between the money rates and the bank rates. This situation is far from happy.

The other day, the Chairman of the Indian Banking Association, Mr. Bhabha, has complained that pressure is being brought to transfer some of the deposits to the State Bank of India and deposit the savings in the post-office savings bank and the like. I do not know how far the allegation is true. If it is true, I do not think it is going to remedy the situation. It is only just a book entry and nothing more. Our foreign exchange position is also far from happy and placed as we are, we have to wriggle out of the situation.

Coming to the education problems, I feel that in the years that have passed by, we have not evolved a basic education system suitable to the country and our aspirations. Much of our time has been wasted on the controversy about the medium of education. Text-books are often changed. The national outlook and the national spirit that has to be imbibed at all levels have not taken roots. It is high time that we give top priority to this part of the problem. Our population is increasing and more children are going to school. But, our school and college buildings are not sufficient to meet our requirements and after two years this problem will arise in every State in an acute form. More schools, colleges, especially technical colleges, are needed.

It is quite right that in the Second Plan, industrial development has been given a very high priority. I feel that a useless controversy has been unnecessarily going on about the public and private sectors. The present is a time when every sector has to play its part. Everyone must contribute his mite to the national development. But, I feel that the tempo of spending in the public sector is not tuned to the requirements of our professed development programmes. If we have to progress, as is natural for any country in the modern nuclear age, we have got to industrialise very soon and for that we must spend. In the present Budget, we have allocated Rs. 53 crores or something like that to the Ministry for starting the industries. I think it is not sufficient. If we have to progress, more funds are necessary; they should come up in a short time. Basic industries are the need of the day. We must progress very rapidly. The public sector industries should be decentralised so that more of these could be located in suitable backward areas in order to develop them.

I have a word to say about our development wing. Our development wing is doing very good work. I do feel that there is still much more to be done. They must evolve a pattern for all the States. They must have a complete picture based on the availability of raw material, suitability of a place for industrial development, etc. It is not that somebody should go and take technical advice and the like. They should be able to guide even the private sector. They should survey the different States with a view to locating different industries in suitable places. The

[Dr. J. N. Parekh]

development wing can do a very useful work in this connection. I also feel that we badly need a designing section. Mostly, we have to refer to foreign countries for our designs. In India so many new industries are coming up and if a co-ordinated effort is made, a designs section would come up very soon. Necessary technical advice would be available then.

There are Industrial Finance Corporations and the like for big industries but for medium and small-scale industries, monetary help should be given more liberally. They have no working funds at their disposal unlike the highly industrialised countries of the west.

We find here that almost every Ministry is handling some industries. The Railways have their own industry, the Defence Ministry has some industries under it, the Production Ministry has some other industries under it, the Iron and Steel Ministry has some industries under it and so on. I feel that there is no co-ordination between the different Ministries. They can pool their resources, they can pool their man-power, they can pool their equipments and they can pool their technical know-how. I find that sometimes useful technical hands are being misplaced and their services are not utilised as they ought to be. I know that some foreign-returned men who have highly specialised qualifications in the sanitary line are being utilised in the flood wing of our Ministry. It is only just a waste of their energy, there education and their technical know-how. If the technical know-how available in the country is judiciously and usefully handled that will contribute greatly to the success of our Plans. If a proper co-ordination between the different Ministries is evolved, much useful work can be done.

Similar is the case with regard to our research laboratories. Our national chemical laboratories and national physical laboratories are no doubt doing very useful work. But their researches and their findings should be more and more made available to the public at large. There also some more co-ordinated effort should be made so that their researches are easily available to the commercial and industrial world.

I have a word about our Defence Services. The present inter-national situation has put our country and all the countries of the world in such a position that one has to be alert and alive to the situation. As we all know, Sir, the cold war and the hot war blasts are just blowing. The international field has become a chess board where the weaker nations are being used as pawns in the game by the big powers. So far as we are concerned, Kashmir being our live issue and there are other grave international tensions, in West Asia and other regions, the situation demands that so far as our defence requirements are concerned we have got to be very careful, alert and alive. No amount of idealism and no complacency is warranted. I think we are in for a third war unless something miraculous happens. Even though our *jawans* in the Army are very high spirited, they must also be well equipped. In the modern age a well equipped Army and a well equipped Air Force is the need of the day. I feel that the three wings of our defence—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force—should be under three separate Ministries so that proper attention can be given to the development of each wing.

I find that the budget allotment for the Navy and Air Force is not adequate looking to the tune of the time. We must see that our Air Force is well equipped with modern aids. Pakistan is very well equipped with American military aid. They have jet planes. Our Air Force must also be equally well equipped. Therefore, I feel that a separate Air Force Ministry should be formed very soon.

Coming to the question of health, I find that the amount allotted to the

public health sector is far from happy and adequate. India is a vast country and the health requirements should get top priority. I know that all that is possible is being done, but I would say that something more will have to be done. Our public health section, particularly drainage, sanitation and water-works in big cities as well as villages, requires a lot of development. More funds will, therefore, have to be put at the disposal of the Health Ministry. I know that the All India Medical Institute is coming up and a lot of good work and research work is likely to be done. By their research work many aspects of medical science are likely to be developed. Similarly, I am sure, Ayurved, Homoeopathy and other branches of medical science are also being developed. But the public health requirements in a country like India do require still more and better attention.

On the transport side I find that our shipping has not still developed as it ought to have. Our shipping is in its infancy. I feel that out of railways, road transport and shipping, shipping should have got more allotment of funds. I think that we have been handling only a fringe of our foreign trade. As the transport bottle-neck is increasing, and as more freight will have to be carried, shipping is bound to play a very major part in our development programme. If our shipping is deveioped and particularly Tramp shipping it will certainly yield good results. We know that the shipyards of the world are heavily booked. Therefore, just as Vizag is doing good work, we must have second and third shipyards. We must have preliminary survey work carried out in this respect. I feel that shipping is a very good foreign exchange earner. Therefore, if shipping is judiciously handled we can earn foreign exchange because a lot of foreign exchange is going away because of our handling the cargo through foreign ships.

Our road transport also requires great development. It has great potentiality of development. It has been admitted that the railways cannot carry all the goods and, therefore, the brunt will have to be borne by the road transport system. It is good that the Planning Commission has now advised us that for ten years goods road transport should not be nationalised. That means the private sector has got a good chance to enter that field. It has also a very good employment potential. I think that we must have National and State Road Boards for the development of roads. Unless our roads are developed and linked properly with big towns, our road transport system cannot function efficiently. If a particular amount of tax is earmarked for being given to these National and State Road Development Boards they will be able to do some useful work as is the experience of foreign countries. If a survey is made or a Transport Commission is appointed so that a coordinated transport system could be evolved, it will go a long way in helping the situation.

I also suggest that the bridge survey should be undertaken because the pressure on roads is likely to increase. A bridge survey at this moment will be very helpful.

Our trucking and trailer industry also needs a great fillip. If a credit system is evolved, I feel that more people will enter into that industry.

Lastly, I feel that our administration must be tuned up. There must be cut in the wasteful expenditure. There must be more contact with the masses to know the public requirements. Corruption and nepotism and inefficiency should be given the go-by. Finally, Sir, I think that with the cooperative effort of all concerned, our country and we have a very bright future.

Shrimati Jayashri (Bombay-Suburban): I thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget. From the little experience I have about the small savings schemes, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry

[Shrimati Jayashri]

to the ambitious scheme that we have put before the public. We expect to collect about Rs. 500 crores from Small Savings for implementing the second Five Year Plan. I feel that still a great deal of propaganda is needed for making this scheme of ours popular. Especially in the rural areas people have not so far been aroused to take interest in this scheme. In large cities also we have got a Committee. In Bombay, we have got a Women's Committee and from my experience I can say that with great difficulty we have been able to collect not a very substantial amount for this scheme. We have been told that the banks themselves invest and when we approach the public, they say that they will have to wait for a long period for interest, while in the postal savings and other savings they expect to get interest every year. So, they are rather reluctant to invest in the 12-year savings. That is my experience which I am putting before the Minister. Though we are anxious that we should help, we want that the public also should be aroused to take more interest in this work. After all, it is the responsibility of the people to see that our Plan is successful. That is the reason for my bringing this question to the notice of the Minister.

Now, I would like to refer to the reports that are submitted to us about the education and health programmes. A few months back, we had the big UNESCO Conference in Delhi. There, in one of the reports, the complaint made was that the education of girls was neglected not only in India but in various countries by various nations of the world. I am glad that the Government are going to spend a large amount on the educational programmes, but I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that proper attention should be given to the education of girls. I would request the Minister to see that when funds are allotted to the institutions for women, to the women's universities and women's colleges, they are more generous in their grants to those institutions.

I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Education on their scheme for raising the pay-scales of the primary school teachers. At present, some of the primary school teachers are getting less salary than our peons. In the report, when I read that the pay-scales are to be increased, I felt very happy. There is a scheme for improving the salary scales of primary and junior basic school teachers to be implemented by the State Governments with the financial assistance from the Centre. That is a very encouraging feature, and I hope that large funds will be allotted for this scheme also.

Next, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the health schemes. Even some of the Members who spoke before me, as for instance, Shri Asoka Mehta, mentioned about this, namely, the clearance of slums. A few months back, in one of the conferences held at Jaipur, they appointed a committee for urban and community development. In their report, they have drawn attention to the fact that due to the towns becoming larger and larger we are having slums, and that the growth of towns create slums. In the big projects under the second Plan, there is great need for planning the towns and cities from the point of view of meeting social needs from the very beginning so that a common civic consciousness could be created in the well-knit and compact urban community. We are paying more attention and that is, I think, essential, to the improvement of rural development, housing and other schemes. But I am sorry to say that so far we have been neglecting our plans for the development of urban areas. We are aware of the evil effects of big cities expanding into larger townships. Here, we find that due to lack of housing facilities, the children are neglected. The women also have to live in crowded

localities and there is the danger of immorality among the labouring classes as well as other people. So, I would like more attention being paid to these aspects when they plan new townships. In our second Five Year Plan, we have envisaged to expand our industries in towns, and here, if proper attention is paid, there will be less congestion and less danger of children and women becoming demoralised.

Sir, another item to which I would like to draw attention is the Social Welfare Board's programmes. I am glad to say that in their programmes, they are going to have many homes for neglected children as well as women. So far, we were told that the Community Projects and the N.E.S., under their programme, were to take care of women and children in their respective rural areas. But I am sorry to say that there is not much co-ordination between the Social Welfare Board's programme and the Community Project programme. But now I am informed that the Social Welfare Board is going to take over this scheme of working among women and children from the community projects. In this way, if the work of looking after women and children is assigned to the Social Welfare Board, I am sure more attention will be paid to the care of women and children.

We have passed some social legislation like the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act and the Children's Act, and we have expressed the hope that there will be less danger of women and children being exploited. The after-care committees that are to be appointed by social welfare boards should be given proper power to look after the homes. From the report we find that homes are going to be started by various States and for this we will require proper personnel. For the training of personnel also there will be a programme and I hope that if we get proper personnel, there will be proper supervision of these homes. From the report of the Moral and Social Hygiene Committee, we find that some of the homes were not genuine but bogus homes. So, it is very necessary that all homes for women and children should be registered, so that they will be able to have proper superintendents for supervising the homes. I would beg the Home Ministry specially to see that proper inspection of these homes is made, because at present, we find that some of the bogus homes are like brothels, especially in big cities where there is greater temptation for falling into the hands of immoral people. So, I would request the Home Ministry to set up machinery to inspect these homes. These homes should be registered and proper supervision should be maintained.

The other point regarding the Health Ministry to which I wanted to draw attention was about the medical college. There is great agitation about one medical college in Delhi. I would like to bring before the House the voice of the Women Doctors' Association specially with regard to the Lady Hardinge Medical College. They feel that this is the only women's institution throughout India and it should not be closed. If there is need for another medical college, the Government have adequate resources for starting a college for men. If it is true that there is only one medical college for women who are unable to go to men's colleges, this college should not be closed, but kept open only for women. I have placed the request before the House and I hope that this College will be kept open only for women.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am very happy to notice that in presenting the White Paper and the Budget this year, the hon. Finance Minister has been able to give this House a much clearer picture than usual. We have now a very clear understanding of the financial and economic condition of the country. He has told us about the strain on the resources and revenues of this country and how best it would be possible for us to get over them. Hitherto we were practically in the lap of deficit financing as long as the previous Finance Minister was in office; but, there is a sudden change-over as soon as Mr. Krishnamachari

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi]

came into office. Much has been said in favour of deficit financing in those days, but so much is not being said about it today. Anyhow, I think as a practical politician, the present Finance Minister would be able to steer through the present *malaise* that has been created either by circumstances or by the manipulation of administrative affairs.

In trying to fill up the gap, the hon. Finance Minister has given us a very clear indication of certain taxation measures in the coming Budget. Of course, he has saved us for the time being from further taxation, though within the last one year we had the uncomfortable experience of going through as many as three or four Finance Bills in some form or other. Anyhow, the matter seems to have taken a happy turn and I hope under the present Finance Minister, things will be much happier hereafter.

I would like to put one question to the Finance Minister, namely, whether it is not possible at least hereafter to have one Budget only instead of two Budgets, one general and the other for railways. I see no reason why there should be a separate Budget for railways. I do not know whether in other countries there are two Budgets, one general and the other for railways. As long as the company management of railways was there, I could understand the necessity for separate Budgets, because there were so many payments made to the Railways and also so many recoveries from them, in addition to so many other adjustments that had to be made. But today the Railway Department has become a wing of the Government and there is absolutely no reason why it should be treated as a separate department. As a matter of fact, the Railway Department is now recognised not as a mere commercial undertaking, but as a public utility concern; and, as such, when the administration of the entire country is for the public good, I see no reason why there should be two separate Budgets, one probably under the exclusive scrutiny of the hon. Finance Minister and the other probably under the exclusive scrutiny of the Railway Minister. In having two Budgets, there is always the feeling in certain departments coming under the General Budget that the railways are being treated in a different and more comfortable manner than the other departments. This feeling is going to increase from day to day and it is possible that a greater agitation would be forthcoming when this sort of spirit is further engendered.

15 HRS.

The hon. Minister has given us an indication that a gap of Rs. 365 crores will be left after marshalling the resources so far available. I would request him to have two things in his mind. One is to have a closer scrutiny of the expenditure of the country and the other is to find out other comfortable sources of revenue by way of taxation or otherwise. There is always a tendency on the part of certain departments to over-budget themselves. At the end of the year, they find that they have a large saving for which there will not be proper accounting. Especially that spirit was hitherto inculcated in the department of Defence. Fortunately, the Revised Estimate shows only a saving of Rs. 1 crore rather than a few crores as hitherto. In spite of the large expenditure that must have been incurred during this year, even this sum of Rs. 1 crore of surplus shows that the budgeting in that particular department is not done with as much scrutiny and care as it ought to be.

In regard to finding of proper resources, I will have to say rather frankly, though it may be uncomfortable to those people who are in the Cabinet, that there are certain resources which cannot be forgotten, which have to be revived, which, probably, would not affect anybody and which, on the other hand, would give a large revenue to the Government from which they would be able to fill up the gap. I shall refer to one or two items which, I hope, the hon. Minister would take into greater con-

assertion and the entire Cabinet will take into serious consideration and see to what extent such suggestions can be followed.

One is savings in the National Extension schemes. There has been on the floor of the House a resolution discussed from the Congress side about the wastage that is occurring in the performance of these National Extension and Block Development schemes. A sum of about Rs. 300 crores has been provided in the Second Plan. I am sure we can safely cut off Rs. 100 crores from that by way of economising the administration and preventing wastage. I do not want to go into the subject in greater detail because the Estimates Committee seems to have dealt with the matter in great detail. Taking the advice of the Estimates Committee, I hope the Government will be able to cut short some of the expenditure which is perhaps going to waste today.

I will then refer to the salt tax. In the Second Plan period, if salt tax is revived, without any sentimentality about it, without any reference to the previous politics about it, probably we will be able to get Rs. 100 crores. This is a very big sum, a good sum, which can reduce the deficit which the hon. Minister is trying to fill up. Time there was when there was so much of excitement on the salt duty. Whether there was justification for that or not then, at this distance of time I do not think there is any justification for not reviving the salt duty. Of course, the Government are aware of it. In every Budget for the last five years I see that particular section relating to salt excise duty has been kept intact. That shows that the Government have an eye on that revenue and they have not abandoned it completely. It is now more than ten or fifteen years since the salt satyagraha was made for securing the country's freedom. It is now unnecessary that this sentiment should be remembered. It is very necessary that the salt duty should be revived so that this gap to the extent of Rs. 100 crores can be filled up. That is a duty in regard to which neither the consumer, nor the producer nor the dealer would be affected. I would only urge upon the hon. Minister to look squarely into that subject and find out a way of reviving this especially because they have not given up this.

A third matter which I would urge upon the attention of the hon. Minister is the question of prohibition. On all accounts, those who live in the States know that prohibition has been a complete failure. Whatever might be the report of the Prohibition Enquiry Committee set up at the instance of the Central Government, those who know the truth about it, those who live in the villages and understand the working of the Prohibition Act, would certainly testify to the fact that there has been a mismanagement of Prohibition administration and there has been a development of the liquor trade more on a cottage industry scale. Departments have become demoralised over that and corruption has been going on rampantly and bare-facedly. It is no more useful to think of prohibition. If the Government think that, under the Constitution, acting as they are under it, they must pursue a policy of prohibition, I would only advise them to suspend this policy for some time and see that revenues are recovered to a large extent. If they find that they have a comfortable margin, then the Government may come forward with a progressive policy in regard to prohibition. Corruption is openly going on. The very department, namely the Police department which is supposed to be administering the Prohibition Act, is a party to it. They have much larger revenues at their disposal by the manufacture of illicit liquor. The other departments also which are supposed to be controlling the Prohibition Act do make a comfortable profit out of it. Whatever is being made by them could be easily taken over by the Government. I do not think there is any sin in that. Unless and until they are in a position to completely wipe off the drink habit, there is no reason why the Government should forego that revenue and pass it on to

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other people who are corrupted and corruptible.

A very dismal picture has been given by the hon. Finance Minister in para. 5 about the production of foodgrains. A couple of years ago, Government took credit that their Plan has succeeded wonderfully well and as such production of foodgrains has almost reached the target. But, in later years they found that production was going down. As has been pointed out very clearly by the hon. Finance Minister himself, in 1953-54, it reached the figure of 68·6 million tons of foodgrains. In 1954-55, it came down to 66.5 million tons and in 1955-56 to 63·4 million tons. This necessitates a very large quantity of foodgrains to be imported from other countries. We have large tracts which can be cultivated. Inasmuch as we have got very large water resources that can be commanded and utilised, there is no reason why the Government should feel shy in improving them. In fact, there was a sort of complacency in the year 1953-54 that the Government have been able to achieve the food target and as such nothing more need be spent that way. Immediately in the Second Plan, they have switched on to the industrial development and expansion not mindful of the fact that the previous output of foodgrains in 1953-54 to the extent of 68·6 million tons was due mainly to the very favourable seasonal conditions that prevailed then and also to the energy of the farmer who had been able to put forth all his capacity and resources to produce more taking advantage of the helpful seasonal conditions. But today we find the development of irrigation facilities being neglected. The provision made during the Second Plan is mostly for the spill-over schemes of the previous Plan, and no big new schemes have been taken up for want of finance. I should say, as I have been saying already, that there must be a prior consideration given to the development of our food resources rather than to our industrial resources. If we had money for both, we could develop both of them together without neglecting the food resources and the capacity of the country to produce more and more, but in the present circumstances it is impossible to appreciate or understand the spirit of the Government to spend more and more on industrialisation.

In this connection, especially when the hon. Deputy Minister for Irrigation is available here, I would once again draw his attention to a very good project in Andhra, namely Somasila. Time and again I have been bringing this to his notice. Actually I have invited him to come and see the dam site so that he might be convinced of the truth of my representation to him. Memoranda have been submitted and so much correspondence has been going on between the Central Government and the Andhra Pradesh Government, and I am sure the Government must have been able to appreciate the need for such a project.

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): I have already replied yesterday.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no doubt about it. The only trouble is money.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I would request him to have patience and hear me for a few minutes, and I will be able to tell him how far it is possible to cover the money difficulty also. also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The difficulty is my patience might be exhausted.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I would request you to be a little bit indulgent to me, for five minutes at least. I have no doubt so many points to urge, but I hope I will be able to finish within five minutes.

The project has been designed to give irrigation to about ten lakhs of acres, together with generation of nearly 15,000 k.w. of power. It has been neglected by both the State and Central Governments. When the Second Plan was under consideration, it had been given a place under flood schemes. The floods seem to have wiped off that scheme, and it has not come even under that. I do realise that it cannot come under the flood

schemes and that it must be taken under the ordinary schemes. With ten lakhs of acres and with nearly Rs. 20 crores to be spent over that, it works to about Rs. 200 per acre. But now in answer to a question a couple of days back the Irrigation Minister was pleased to tell us that the estimate has been revised, the dam construction designs have been revised, and that to cover the same acreage the estimate now would be Rs. 8½ crores. That works out to about Rs. 85 per acre. That being so, it will be a very cheap enterprise, and will at the same time also secure a very large food production, nearly ten lakhs of tons either in paddy or in coarse grains. Hence I do not see why the Government should not take it up as a smaller scheme at this stage and at least finish the first phase of it so that this entire area might be brought under cultivation without much delay. It will relieve the food position to a large extent. I had to expatiate on this for the simple reason that it has been pointed out in the White Paper that we have been going down in food production. The land that will come within the project is already being cultivated and dry grains are being produced. No special attempt has to be made to bring it under cultivation.

Apart from this, I would also urge upon the attention of the Government the possibility of securing the entire amount by way of betterment levy. As I have already pointed out, the cost works out to about Rs. 85 per acre. It will be easy to levy Rs. 100 per acre and secure about Rs. 10 crores. The estimate is only Rs. 8½ crores as it has been revealed a couple of days back. In these circumstances I would urge upon the hon. Minister once again to take up this question and complete it as early as possible.

I hope you will tolerate me if I take a couple of minutes more and tell the hon. Minister the need for considering the. . . . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Toleration is left for me and discretion for the Member.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: If I find that your toleration has been exhausted I must think that my discretion should be used.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find the hon. lady Member has been rising again and again, but my records show that she has already spoken on the subject. She has forgotten that she thanked me for giving her time to speak on the General Budget. These are her words:

"मुझे जनरल बजट पर बोलने का मौका मिला है"

राजमाता कमलेन्दुमति शाह (जिला गढ़वाल, पश्चिम व जिला टिहरी गढ़वाल व जिला बिजनौर, उत्तर) : मैं तो समझती हूं कि मैं नहीं बोली हूं।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: She is mistaken. She should just refresh her memory.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): The White Paper, as the previous speakers have noted, has been of very great help to all of us in understanding fully as also approaching the problem and placing our views before the Government and the House.

One thing that is noticeable is that the hon. Finance Minister has been quite candid in admitting that our food grain production has gone down. We have heard it repeated many times by the Treasury Benches here that our food production has been on the increase. Our Food Minister has never lagged behind in saying that our food production has increased. We have all been feeling that food production has been going down, and this picture that has been given is a very honest picture as to how things are in the country.

The essential feature has been that we have been now importing foodgrains for a long time and spending tons of money over this import of foodgrains. Only this morning I read in a paper that Rs. 40 lakhs worth of foodgrains were allowed to rot in U.P. I know that in 1953 at one single

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place in Jaipur 30,000 bags of rice were allowed to rot. This story has been repeated over and over again all over the country, and God only knows how many crores of rupees have been wasted in this manner. Our Finance Minister is a man of frugal habits; and I hope he will see to it that this kind of wastage is stopped wherever possible and that no further waste of this kind takes place.

Then, we are faced with one other thing, and that has also been mentioned in the White Paper at page 6, namely that the index of wholesale prices has been on the increase, and has not come down at all. People have been clamouring for relief by way of reduction in prices, but not only has there been no reduction in prices, but on the contrary the increase in prices has been going on unabated, and from the index figure of 100 in 1939, it has gone up to 424.

During the last session, in regard to the *per capita* income, I put a question to the Minister of Planning, but he would not agree with my view that our *per capita* income has not increased. The proportionate increase in income is nothing compared to the proportionate increase in prices. When the price index has jumped from 100 to 424, it is impossible for anyone to show that a proportionate increase in the *per capita* income has taken place. In other words, the masses have become poorer than what they were in 1939, The sum total of these two mathematical calculations is that although a man's income might have increased, and might even have doubled, yet his expenditure has increased by nearly 4½ times as compared to what it was in the year of grace 1939. That also must be taken into consideration. Merely patching up here and there will not do; merely increasing the salary of a few station masters, of a few guards, and a few clerks and some low-paid staff in the cities—for which we are now providing a sum of Rs. 5 crores—will not do.

Our efforts must be to bring down the prices to a reasonable level. We have, however, been noting, even in regard to consumer goods, even in regard to cotton cloth, that the prices have been on the increase. A pair of *dhotis* which used to cost us Rs. 4 or 5 now costs us not less than Rs. 18. This is the way in which the prices have been going up. So, we are now trying to meet only the increased cost of various goods.

Besides, what a waste we are indulging in! The previous speaker, Shri Ramachandra Reddi was justified in saying that we must apply our minds to this problem, and stop this wastage in the community projects and national extension service blocks. It might be that since this comes from a Member of the Opposition, Government may not relish it, but I do feel that they are merely propaganda machinery for the ruling party, and as such it is a huge waste. I repeat that these community projects and national extension service blocks are nothing but publicity or propaganda machines for the ruling party and for Government. They must be stopped completely, and a full saving must be effected under this head. They are of absolutely no use to us.

I now come to the question of prohibition. I approve of prohibition, but I do not at the same time approve of the way in which this prohibition policy is put into effect. Just to give you an instance, in Ahmedabad, during these elections, prohibition was set at nought, and everybody vied with each other to get the voters as much drunk as possible, with the result that there has been a net loss to the Central and State revenues.

We have seen also what is happening in Bombay. Very recently, I had occasion to visit, with a friend of mine, a particular flat in Bombay. I am a tea-totaller, but unfortunately, my friend was not. And he was offered very nice drinks. When I asked him how this was being done openly, he had the courtesy to tell

me, 'Well, a certain amount is always paid to the police officer in charge of that area, and then the whole thing is free'. That means that that police officer gains money to that extent, while our revenues are depleted to the corresponding extent.

So, we must rise and do one thing first. In the First Five Year Plan, we have already missed the bus by not making any provision for elevating the moral standards of our people. If only we had raised the moral standards of our people, they would have realised the difference between sin and virtue, and that would have been a good deal of moral gain for us.

Unfortunately, our plans have been soulless plans. We have not applied our minds to the question of imparting any moral education whatever to our people, especially, to the younger generation, with the result that we want to foist upon them certain things which we think are quite good, but which they are not prepared to swallow.

The result of all this has been that prohibition has not been a success. It is true in some cases, and I should think it is always true, that prohibition is a very good thing for those who believe in it, but it is no good for those who do not believe in it, and who think that they ought to be defiant about it. Bombay has been the worst in this respect. Papers like *Blitz* and others have been carrying on propaganda in and out that prohibition has hard-hit the Parsi community. It is a small community no doubt but it has been the most vocal community against prohibition and it has done everything in its power to disrupt prohibition. Why can we not tax such people? They are very rich people. Tax them by all means. Increase your revenues. But do not spend money on this prohibition business, because we are wasting our money on it. Therefore, I should say that it should be put in a refrigerator for at least another five years or so, so that we can tap some money from that source.

There is one other thing that I would like to suggest, and here, I agree to the views expressed by the previous speaker. In fact, I have advocated it very often in this House. With our present level of production, if we have the old salt tax once again, at the rate of only Rs. 1-4-0 a maund—we can make it Rs. 2-8-0 if we like—nobody will be hit hard. For, salt today, even without the tax, is dearer than what it was in 1914 when the tax was there.

A simple calculation will show that if we impose salt tax at the rate of Rs. 1-4-0 a maund, we shall be able to get a revenue of the order of Rs. 26 crores, and if the rate is Rs. 2-8-0 we shall be able to get about Rs. 52 crores.

In regard to deficit financing, I do not know whether the Finance Minister will agree with me, but I feel that he does not believe in deficit financing, which in my opinion is the method of a man who wants to file an insolvency petition. If that is not his method, and he believes in balancing his budget, he should not give up this income which is easily available from the source I have indicated.

There need be question of sentiment in regard to this matter. We are not fighting the British now. We are our own masters, and we have the power to tape the resources which can be tapped. It is no use taxing the poor *tongawallahs* and creating trouble for the travelling public by having the octroi posts everywhere. When we travel from one town and enter a second town, there is an octroi post on the border; again, when we go from the second town to a third town, there is another octori post; when we go to yet another town, we have to cross another octroi post, exactly as used to happen in the days of the British when we had to pass through the Viramgam customs post. Such difficulties must be done away with. There should not be these small pin-pricks on the people of our country.

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

Just as we have done away with the customs barriers, likewise it is up to us to rise to the occasion in this case also. I would have said a little more, but, I know that you, Sir, are looking at the clock, and the clock is also moving fast, and my time is almost up. So, I would conclude by repeating one request namely that before we enter into the big project of having prohibition introduced in the whole of our country, we must raise the moral standards of our people. If that is done, then, we shall be lifting the people to a higher level morally, and then only we shall be faithfully able to fulfil the constitutional directive that prohibition must be introduced in our country.

MOTION *RE*: SIXTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to move:

> "That this House agrees with the Sixty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st March, 1957".

This Report is in connection with allotment of time for the Resolutions that are on the agenda today. So far as the first Resolution regarding nationalisation of the tea industry is concerned, 14 minutes have already been spent and the remaining time out of 2½ hours is available. Thereafter, there are three Resolutions and the time allotted for each is stated against it in the Report. I submit that the House do accept the Report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That this House agrees with the Sixty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st March, 1957".

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE*: NATIONALISATION OF TEA INDUSTRY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri A. K. Gopalan on the 14th December, 1956:

> "This House is of opinion that the predominant position of British capital in the tea industry has proved detrimental to national interests and that the tea industry should be nationalised forthwith".

Out of 2½ hours allotted for the discussion of this Resolution, 14 minutes have already been taken up and 2 hours and 16 minutes are left now for its further discussion.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Resolution moved by my hon. friend, Shri A. K. Gopalan, is of considerable importance, especially in the background of the statements of economic policy made by the Central Government, and I wish to make a few observations on it.

I do not know whether Shri A. K. Gopalan would have moved this Resolution has he been given an opportunity to do so today. A few days back, when it was more or less clear that the Communist Party would be returned in a majority in the Kerala Legislature, Shri A. K. Gopalan made the announcement that one of the first things that the Communist Party would do in Kerela would be to carry out nationalisation of all foreign owned plantations; but after one or two days, his party boss in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin area, Shri M. N. Govindan Nair, stated in a Press conference more or less to the following effect:

> "We have not decided with regard to nationalisation. It is something left to the Centre, and even if we take any step, we would only go slow".

It was a very guarded statement that he made and from the tone it appeared that he was pulling up Shri

A. K. Gopalan for the rash statement that he made. But whatever it be, now that the Resolution has been moved, we have to look upon it on its own merits.

Shri Gopalan has made the sweeping statement that, according to the opinion of this House, the predominant position of British capital in the tea industry has proved detrimental to national interests and the tea industry should be nationalised forthwith. When we consider the question whether the predominant position of British capital in the tea industry has been detrimental or not, we have also to consider the fact that the initial development of the industry was almost entirely due to British enterprise; may be that it did help them because India was a colony of the British. All the same, we have to recognise the importance of the industry in India's economy.

Shri Gopalan has referred to the fact that the total capital invested in the tea industry, according to the Report of the Plantation Inquiry Committee, is Rs. 113·06 crores, of which 35·8 per cent. is Indian and 64·4 per cent. non-Indian. So it cannot be disputed that British interests are dominant in the tea industry of India. The total acreage under tea is 7·89 lakh acres. We may also concede the fact that there are not many small holdings in tea plantations as we find in rubber plantations. Out of 7·89 lakh acres, only 33,000 acres are referred to as estates of less than 100 acres. But we have to take into consideration the fact that this industry earns foreign exchange to the value of round about the figure of Rs. 140 crores for India. The 1956 figure is a record figure. India has exported in that year 516 million lbs. of tea and earned a foreign exchange of Rs. 140·6 crores.

The tea industry is also the largest employer of organised labour—to the extent of a million workers. It also supports other industries such as the plywood industry; 82 per cent. of the product of the plywood industry is being absorbed by the tea industry. This industry also consumes about Rs. 2·54 crores worth of Indian manufacture fertilisers.

I mention these facts because of the importance of the industry in the economy of India. When we consider the question of nationalisation of such an industry, we have to weigh the *pros and cons* of it and decide whether, in the background of our declared policies, we can afford to do it at this particular stage. I do not minimise the abuses that are found in this industry. They are things which have to be dealt with by enforcing appropriate legislation that this House passed or may in its wisdom pass later on. The several drawbacks which we find in this industry and which have been pointed out by Shri A. K. Gopalan are, to my mind, a matter for enforcement of the various rules and regulations laid down by the Central Government or legislation passed by this Parliament.

When this question of nationalisation is being discussed, the avowed policy of our Government, namely, the establishment of a socialist pattern of society, is often drawn upon just to confuse the issue and point out that in view of the fact that we have adopted a socialist pattern of society, it is up to us to nationalise all industries. That is a misconception and that fact has been pointed out by the Prime Minister and other spokesmen of the Central Government. In fact, in the Industrial Policy Resolution which was placed before this House on 30th April, 1956, it has only been stated:

> "The adoption of the socialist pattern of society as the national objective, as well as the need for planned and rapid development, require that all industries of basic and strategic importance, or in the nature of public utility services, should be in the public sector. Other industries which are essential "and require investment on a scale which only the

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State, in present circumstances, could provide, have also to be in the public sector".

This is all that has been stated; it does not mean that simply because we have adopted a socialist pattern of society, nationalisation of all industries, whatever be the nature of those industries, should follow.

I would like the House to consider one or two aspects when we deal with the question of nationalisation of an industry like the tea industry. First of all, this is an agricultural product. We have to bear in mind this factor. We have also always to put before us the object that as much production as possible should be achieved in an industry like this. There is the question of efficiency of management and there is also the question of personal element in the matter of agricultural operation.

Here, I may also bring to the notice of the House one statement that has been made by the Communist Party in its election manifesto —a separate manifesto was issued so far as the Kerala State was concerned—where it is mentioned that although it would attempt a ceiling on holdings, it would not effect any ceilings as far plantation crops are concerned. The object, obviously is that production should not suffer.

So what I want to emphasise is that when we consider the question of nationalisation with regard to a product like this, we have also to consider whether it would be conducive to increased production or not. In this matter, we have also got the experience of Communist countries.

I was going through a report of the Prime Minister of Poland, the new Communist leader Gamulka. I think this report has been circulated to all the Members of Parliament by some agency some months back. There are one or two revealing statements made in this report. It has been stated:

"All data quoted pertain to 1955. There was 76·8 per cent. of farmland in the possession of individual farmsteads. Income-dividing cooperatives were in the possession of 8·6 per cent, and the state farms of 12·8 per cent of the total area of farms. land owned by these three types of farms. The overall produce as produced by these farms taken as 100 is divided as follows: individual 83·9 per cent, co-operative farms, including cottage allotments, 7·7 per cent, and state farms, including auxiliary holdings of agricultural workers, 8·4 per cent."

I just want to show by this the decrease in production with regard to holdings under State management. It is further stated:

"When estimating the value of overall production per hectare of arable land, we arrive at the following picture: Individual farms 621·1 zlotys, co-operative farms 517·3 zlotys, and state farms 393·7 zlotys, at constant prices. Thus the difference between individual and co-operative farms amounts to 16·7 per cent, while in comparison with state farms, individual farm production was higher by 37·2 per cent."

I just give these figures to show that when an agricultural industry is brought under state control the production is likely to suffer. But the very basis of socialism, as we all know, is increased production and the other matter is with regard to distribution and meting out social justice.

Then there is the statement on foreign investments in India which has been made by the Prime Minister on 6th April, 1949 which still holds the field. We have also to take into consideration the assurance given in this statement. It has been stated by the Prime Minister that in the first place Government would expect all undertakings, Indian or foreign, to conform to the general requirements of the Industrial Policy. As regards

existing foreign interests Government do not intend to place any restriction or impose any conditions which are not applicable to similar Indian enterprise and that their policy was to enable further foreign capital to invest in India on terms and conditions that are mutually advantageous. It has further been stated that there will not be any difficulty in the matter of repatriation of profits or assets. There is another statement to which I want to draw the attention of the House and that is that if foreign interests are compulsorily acquired compensation will be paid on a fair and equitable basis as already announced in the Government's statement of policy.

So, if we nationalise the tea industry now, that will involve the expenditure of crores of rupees from the Exchequer. The thing that we have to consider is whether we can afford to do so especially in view of the tightened circumstances under which we are labouring. We are hard put for resources for running the various schemes under the Second Five Year Plan. If this policy of payment of just compensation still rules the field and that is to be adopted, it will mean that we would have to shell out crores of rupees from the Exchequer and that will dislocate the Plan allotment. There is no doubt about that. What I want to submit is that either in national interest or considering the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan which this House has adopted, this resolution cannot seriously be considered.

I think we have also to consider one other aspect, namely, the special feature in this trade. As I have already stated, it is true that the British interests are dominant in this industry. But, all the same, we have also to consider the fact that the biggest consumer of our product is the United Kingdom. So, this cannot be a one-way traffic. We have had a record figure with regard to exports in the year 1956. Going through the figures I find that the exports to the United Kingdom amount to 366·5 million lbs. although it was only 248·9 million lbs. in 1955. We have earned Rs. 100 crores from the United Kingdom consumers in 1956. We must also take this fact into consideration when we consider a resolution of this kind, that is, the repercussions of adopting this resolution and nationalising the industry. Although there may be some abuses in the industry which have got to be tackled by adequate enforcement of the various provisions of law, or if they are inadequate by other provisions, I feel it may not be in the interests of our country if we adopt a resolution of this kind.

Before concluding, I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government to one fact, namely, the targets fixed in the Second Five Year Plan for the plantation products. With regard to tea, rubber and coffee, it has been stated in the Plan that no firm targets have been fixed. But, having regard to the figures of export as well as production for the year 1956, I feel we have to revise the targets that have been laid down in the Second Five Year Plan. The Second Five Year Plan puts the production figure at 700 million lbs. of tea and the export target is only 500 million lbs. We have exported in 1956, 616 million lbs. of tea.

It is also high time now that the Plantation Enquiry Committee has submitted its report, to draw up the various programmes for development of the plantation industries such as tea, rubber and coffee. I emphasise this because the development of this plantation industry is of vital importance to the country and to my State of Kerela in particular.

I am afraid that the employment potential in the plantation industries is not kept adequately in view by the Central Government when it drew up the Second Five Year Plan and when it also made the various allotments for the development of these industries. Out of the 8 and odd lakh acres, now that Malabar has also come to Travancore-Cochin, an area of more than 1 lakh of acres is covered by tea in Kerala. There is

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plenty of scope for expansion of plantation as well as for replanting in that particular State. If a co-ordinated policy of intensive as well as extensive development is followed, I feel that there is ample scope for absorbing thousands of labourers in these industries—in tea as well as rubber. I would, therefore, bring this aspect before the Central Government when this resolution is being considered and discussed in this House.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this resolution and before going into the details of the tea industry, I would like to say one word about the nationalisation of foreign concerns.

Regarding compensation I do not say that you should acquire these without any compensation. We have never said that but we have said: Give reasonable compensation and do not give fancy compensation as you have done in the case of the Kolar Goldfields. Where is the necessity for the Central Government to go out of its way and give much more than what the Mysore Government wanted to give? You remember the Mysore Government wanted to give compensation at the market rate of the shares coming to about Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 lakhs, whereas the Central Government wrote to the Mysore Government to give almost 3 times that. Now, it is reported in today's papers that some important businessmen of Bombay have thanked the Governor and the Government of Mysore for giving acceptable compensation in regard to the Kolar Goldfields. There are words 'acceptable compensation.' With what patronage they speak of it. Certainly, it is acceptable because they have given three times the market rates of the shares of the Kolar Gold Fields. By all means, I say, do give fair compensation, not fancy or fantastic compensation.

Regarding this tea industry, that the bulk of British capital is sunk in the tea industry is well known. I do not think I need inform the Finance Minister of all people of the iron grip of the British hand on this industry. Here a few figures of the Plantation Inquiry Commission will be useful:

"Thirteen leading agency houses in Calcutta control over 75 per cent of the tea production in North India....

When we consider the retail distribution of tea in India, we see that 85 per cent. of it is controlled by two leading firms.

In an industry in which capital is so largely in the hands of foreign business houses and 75 per cent of whose production is controlled directly by a limited number of agents of these foreign firms and whose produce is sold largely to the same foreign country and in many cases through the same agents, it is inevitable that there should be a high degree of concentration."

These private firms not only control the industry but they are very often the managing agents; they are the brokers; they get commission for buying and they get commission for selling, and they have a very firm hold, almost a monopoly on the tea industry.

Many people are under the impression that these foreign-owned estates are managed very well, but our Plantation Inquiry Commission report says quite the reverse. In some of these estates there is replanting of tea. About 20 per cent of the plants are 50 years old and this is certainly beyond the average life of a tea plant. We see that more than 25 per cent of the tea plants are out of date and this means about one-fourth of the whole estate would become useless. In many cases, they are selling these old estates and some people—I would not mention their community—some speculators are buying them up and thus the country as a whole is losing on these tea estates. What the Tea Plantation Inquiry Commission report says clearly is that our impression that these foreign-owned estates are

very well managed is not quite true. Out of the total capital of about Rs. 100 crores nearly Rs. 80 crores are by these foreign companies and a good deal of the profits go to the foreign companies. Dividends from 20 to 30 per cent go to the British. I need not go into all the details; particularly, I want to be brief. We want our friend Shri Ramachandra Reddi's resolution to be taken up soon. I only wish to say that everybody knows that foreign concerns have a strong iron grip over this industry. As my friend already mentioned nearly 10 lakh workers are working in miserable conditions without any proper medical aid and other amenities.

Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to nationalize this industry. Regarding the loss of profit in public concerns, I agree broadly the position is so, but supposing the nationalization of tea industry is in the interests of the country, it does not tie the hands of the Government. Suppose the Government is convinced that it is better to nationalize in the interests of the country or the settlement of industrial labour, it does not prevent the Government from nationalizing it. It is quite clear that one of the major industries in India is in the hands of these foreign exploiters which it is high time for us to sever.

Regarding compensation, as our friend just now said, if you have to pay a compensation of Rs. 80 or 90 crores, the gross income, i.e., foreign exchange will be nearly Rs. 100 crores I am not referring to profits which are different. Therefore, there is no reason why Government should not find ways and means of nationalizing this industry by paying reasonable compensation. Then there is no reason why we should pay cash down for these people. It is for the Finance Minister to find ways and means and I do not think I should suggest anything to him. Therefore, I say that there is a strong case to nationalize this foreign-owned tea industry and this would save the country from at least one source of foreign exploitation in Indian History. I support the Resolution

The Minister of Commerce and Industries (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, the question of nationalization of industries is one to which some hon. friends are wedded for its own sake without any other consideration. They have made it into a principle. This Government does not make a principle of it. We are neither against it nor in favour of it, merely as a principle. If nationalization is in the interests of the country, there can be no harm in having nationalization and this question ought to be examined from this point of view. My hon. friend, who spoke last, also admitted that nationalization should be undertaken if it is in the interests of the country.

Let us examine if in this particular matter it is in the interests of the country to nationalize the tea industry. I am glad that my hon. friend grants that it is not possible to nationalize merely the foreign-owned estates, that it will be necessary to nationalize all the tea estates, whether they are Indian or non-Indian, whether they are big or small.

In the first place, we must consider whether the process of nationalization will bring us more production, because that is vital to this industry if the interests of the large amount of labour engaged in this industry is to be maintained in future and in a better way. I do not think that it has been said or contended at any time that there is going to be better production if there is nationalization. On the contrary, I have grave doubts about the production continuing at the present level for some time, at any rate, until the whole thing settles down, and I do not think that we can take any risk in that matter at present.

Then again the production of the British or foreign-owned estates is in no way inferior to the production of the Indian-owned estates; if at all in some cases, it is much better. From that point of view also, it would not

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be fair to say that the foreign-owned estates are a source of exploitation of this country by foreigners. Nothing has been shown by either the hon. Mover of the motion or those who supported it to prove that there is any exploitation of any Indian interests. Whatever may have been true in the past, which I do not know, at any rate, it cannot be said that during recent years the labour in these estates has been exploited; their conditions are becoming better day by day, whereas they were being paid about Rs. 11 crores, the bill has now increased to Rs. 42 crores. There are various other amenities also which are given in addition and these are also going on increasing. The regulations which are framed by Government are also tending more and more towards improving the living and other conditions of the labour employed in these estates. About a million people are employed in these estates. If we nationalize this industry, we have to consider whether the same labour will be employed. The question is what would happen and how would efficiency be maintained. When the transfer takes place, it will require also a large number of experts and other personnel, which we cannot immediately produce. That will immediately bring down the production and will also worsen the condition of these estates and the living conditions of the labour employed in these estates. But, more than this, we have also to consider whether it is going to benefit us in other ways.

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If we had any surplus capital and if we wanted to utilise it in this manner, it would have been, to some extent, useful. But today, we are asking for foreign capital to be invested in this country on certain conditions because it is necessary for raising our industrial production and for having many industries which we have not got at present and which we badly need. On the one hand, we invite foreign capital to come and settle here on fair terms, and on the other hand we wish to liquidate or buy over. Capital which is already invested here and which is not doing us any harm but which is rather serving the interests of production in this country. I do not see how we can be benefited by this sort of a contradictory process unless we want only to satisfy a theory and not the real interests of this country.

The question of the tea industry is rather very peculiar. We are exporting a greater or a much larger portion of our production than what we are consuming in this country. The interests of the industry, therefore, are served more by exports than by local consumption. And a large part of our exports is consumed in U.K. If we are going to treat these people in the manner in which we are asked to treat them, I do not think that our exports will remain unharmed, and if the exports are harmed, I do not see how we can maintain the production in this country of the estates even if the other conditions are satisfied. It is, therefore, not unconnected with the sale or production in this country, and if both the questions are considered at the same time, the balance of convenience will not lie in taking over these estates. I am quite sure that our interests are served better by continuing the estates as they are and by controlling them as we are doing at present.

It was argued that foreigners are taking away very large amounts in the form of dividends. If some figures are seen, it will be noticed that during the last two years, 1953 and 1954, the net profit after taxation for 247 companies was Rs. 11·07 crores, out of which dividends given were only Rs. 3·06 crores; the rest was accounted for by transfer to the reserve fund and the remaining profits are ploughed back for revitalising the estates and improving them. In 1954, the net profit after taxation of these companies amounted to Rs. 11·70 crores, out of which Rs. 4·04 crores was distributed as dividends. It will thus be

seen that a larger portion of the profit is retained and ploughed back in the industry rather than distributed as dividends to the owners. Even in this matter, therefore, it serves the purposes of the industry more as the estates are managed at present.

The argument that Indians buy some of these estates for very exaggerated amounts is also not borne out by facts. It is found that out of the 32 estates which were purchased during the last few years by Indian interests, about 17 estates are producing more today than they were doing before, and they are making larger profits. Therefore, it cannot be said that they had paid more than they should have paid, and Government also tries to see or rather the Tea Board, which looks after these interests, that the amounts paid are not extravagant or out of proportion to the assets which are bought over or the future capacities of these estates. From that point of view also, my hon. friends ought to feel assured that there is no question of giving more to the estate owners in this form. Government is very much alive to the danger of allowing more money to be passed over by way of purchases of these estates by some Indians who may want to run them. So far as Government knows, there are hardly any cases at present where more than proper amounts have been paid for the purchase of any estates.

Then the question of the amount involved in nationalising it has also got to be considered. It is not a matter where we can say that we can easily afford to buy over without any detriment to our requirements in other fields. If the amounts involved are taken into consideration, they would amount to about Rs. 181 crores, not to speak of the amount of money required as working capital for running these estates after taking them over. The least that may be required will be over Rs. 180 crores. If this amount is employed for other more useful purposes in this country, we can ill-afford to utilise them for giving them to interests which would be very glad to take the money and go away and start such industries elsewhere. That would again be to the detriment of the interests of this country. If we depend more on exports of this commodity, we have got to see that we do not create more and more rivals elsewhere for this. We have not got any monopoly in this matter, nor can we have any monopoly here. Therefore, we ought to be more prudent in this matter and not be carried away by any theoretical notions of nationalisation or otherwise. The fact that we are going to have a socialist state of things does not mean that we should not be prudent or wise or that we should be wooden in our thinking. We have got to consider all aspects of the situation and see that we prosper in every way and not that we go down by any measure that we adopt to further our interests. In this matter, nationalisation, instead of being useful or beneficial to our country, would be quite suicidal as the facts are, as can be seen by my hon. friends.

It is said that foreign interests have a stranglehold on this country. I do not see how they have, because there are full controls and they do not get any special treatment. Whatever special treatment they may have had in the past, they have no special treatment today. The labour is looked after by Government by means of special legislations, and the Tea Board also specially looks after the interests of the labour and the management and also the interests of the estates for the good of this country.

It is said that several estates have not been replanted even though the plants have become more than 60 years old. There again, we should not take a very theoretical view. It has been found that even those plants which are sixty years old have yielded more tea than younger plants. Therefore, any theory in this matter is not going to be helpful. These estates are being looked after properly and it is also seen that they are being replanted or revitalised from time to time. Government also is very careful to see that the estates are

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rejuvenated from time to time and that they do not decline in their productivity and that in any case the interests of this country do not suffer. It may not be perhaps very flattering to ourselves, but we have got to admit that the labour is looked after better in these foreign-owned estates than in Indian estates. They are even paid better. What do we want to do in this matter? I do not think that we should take an academic view and merely satisfy a theoretical notion that nationalisation is useful under all circumstances for this country or any country. I hope my hon. friends will take these facts into consideration and drop this proposal if they consider wisdom is better than mere theory.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is not there to make a reply. So, I will have to put the question straight to the vote of the House. The question is:

> "This House is of opinion that the predominant position of British Capital in the Tea Industry has proved detrimental to national interests and that the Tea Industry should be nationalised forthwith."

The Resolution was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE: STATUTORY BODY FOR FIXATION OF SUGAR CANE PRICES

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Sir, I beg to move:

> "This House recommends to the Government to undertake legislation at an early date to constitute a Statutory Body for the purpose of fixing Sugar Cane prices, with a view to safe-guard the interests of cane growers and sugar manufacturers and to promote the production of sugar in India."

Sir, you may remember that a similar Resolution was ballotted in my name in the last session. Unfortunately, we could not reach it and it has now become possible for me to give notice of it once again and bring it before the House for consideration. I should think that I am lucky in getting it in ballot and I hope, with the co-operation and assent of the Government, the cane growers' headache in this behalf would be removed to a large extent. The Resolution recommends the constitution of a Central Cane Price Board as it now exists in Australia. Perhaps there are other countries also where such boards do exist.

The report of the Sugar Delegation Committee which went to Australia and Indonesia in 1955 dealt with this at length and also with the working of the Central Cane Price Board and the local boards in Australia. In a sense, it has shown the way to this Government to adopt a similar measure so that the periodical headaches that the Government is experiencing from the cane growers might be minimised. According to the Australian Act, there should be a board consisting of five members. The Chairman is appointed by the Governor-in-Council, he would be one of the members. He is generally a Judge of the Supreme Court or a person well versed in matters of the sugar industry. There is a representative of the growers, then, a representative of the mill-owners, a qualified sugar chemist and a person experienced in accountancy and audit. Similarly, the local boards constituted under that Act are there so that the local grievances might be gone into and the local problems might be decided according to the best of their capacity.

You would remember that sometime back, there has been a big agitation on behalf of these cane growers about the fixation of cane prices in time so that they might go on with their operations and develop the production of cane. Today, the Central Government on the advice of an advisory committee or probably of its own accord, fixes the price and asks the

cane growers to raise the crop. In the year 1951-52 or 1952-53, the cane prices were about Rs. 1-12-0 per maund but in subsequent years it was sought to be reduced. It has actually been reduced to Rs. 1-5-0 per maund, of course with slight variations according to the distance of the field from the factory, and so on. But, the reduction from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 1-5-0 hit hard the grower and the growers had been constantly agitating against the attitude of the Government for not conforming to the prior rate of Rs. 1-12-0. Anyhow, the Government has taken a stand upon that and has fixed it at a lower rate. I may also state in this connection that the price fixed by the Central Government is not automatically adopted by the State Governments. In certain cases, the State Governments seem to be taking a more liberal view and fixing a higher rate. But, anyhow, it behoves a Government which is anxious about the development of sugarcane and the development of the production of sugar in this country to adopt a uniform method with little variations from State to State according to the conditions and capacities available there.

The delegation which I referred to consisted of two officials and one non-official and two representatives of the sugar producers. Dealing with the question of constituting a Board for the purpose of fixation of prices in the final recommendations, the delegation is strongly in favour of the appointment of a Board. The delegation gave its decision in favour of appointing an advisory committee for the purpose of fixation of prices. They say :

> "We recommend a standing advisory committee consisting an equal number of representatives of cane growers and factory owners with an independent Chairman, preferably a Judge, should be set up for advising the Government on the level at which the price of sugarcane should be fixed from year to year."

I do not know to what extent Government has been able to proceed and adopt this suggestion made by the Committee, in which there was a preponderance of officials and sugar producers.

On the other hand, in a dissenting note given by one of the members, Sardar Lal Singh M.P. as President of the Sugarcane Growers' Federation, I find on page 110 as follows:

> "So, I would strongly urge upon the Government to bring into existence the proposed price fixation board with the least delay which should function with independence so as to inspire confidence of all concerned, the grower, miller and the consumer. The board is also necessary to remove the sugar industry from the chess board of party politics."

I do not know what is the attitude of the Government now with regard to this problem. I hope they have not made up their mind against it. I wish they look into the matter more carefully, with greater responsibility and in the interests of the production of sugarcane as well as production of sugar. It might be said that the question of finance might be standing in the way of constituting a Board like this. I am sure the Government would appreciate the value of a Board like this and its services, and make proper provision for the constitution and maintenance of this Board.

I think there is a large accumulation of the sugarcane cess fund which can be diverted, if so necessary, towards this, or a small cess can be levied on the sugarcane produced as well as the sugar manufactured so as to enable the collection of a small revenue for this purpose, say, a couple of lakhs, for the maintenance of a Board like this.

It should, therefore, be easy for the Government to constitute a Board like this both in the interests of the producers of cane as well as the producers of sugar, and also in the interests of the consumers. In all such

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transactions we usually find that the consumer is left of. I make this remark for the simple reason that, while there is a surplus of nearly a lakh of tons of sugar this year, instead of reducing the consumer's price the Government has begun to make a profit over it by export. Only the other day the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture has been telling us in reply to a question on the floor of this House that a lakh of tons surplus was available, and they have sent about 46,000 tons of sugar to other countries and made a decent profit of £2 more per ton. If the consumer also comes into the picture, there must be a change in the attitude of the Government in favour of the consumer. Also, if they are making a profit over these transactions, either it must go to the cane producer, who is doing it under very difficult circumstances, or it must go to the consumer. We find from the policy of export that the Government has launched upon, that neither the consumer nor the cane grower has been benefited when the Government is making a good profit over it. Other conditions being comfortable and easy, I do not mind the Government making some profit out of it and utilising it for the general purpose. But, unfortunately, things are not so happy as the Government seems to be thinking, and as such it is very necessary that a body, which will be able to statutorily impose a duty on the Government to adopt a particular price fixed by the Board and see that that price is given to the grower—of course, without neglecting or ignoring the claims of the producer of sugar—is set up.

When the policy of the Government is to stabilise the sugar industry, it must be their policy to stabilise the sugarcane growing industry also. We find from the figures that there is a steady growth in the production of cane. In the year 1955-56 cane was grown over an area of 39,45,000 acres. In 1956-57 the area increased by about 5,87,000 acres. As regards the production of cane also there has been an increase. In 1955-56 the production of cane was only 5,04,55,000 tons. In 1956-57 it rose to 5,89,14,000 tons. There is an increase of nearly 84,59,000 lakh tons. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should find a way to stabilise the industry which is rapidly growing, and to see that the growing industry is not affected adversely in any way. It must also be seen that adequate capacity is maintained in India for the production of sugarcane so as to assist the production of sugar in the mills.

By the wobbling policy of the Government, which we have been witnessing for the last four or five years, we have been driven to see this sorry spectacle of importing certain quantities of sugar last year from other countries. That shows, as long as there is no steadiness of policy on the part of the Government there will be unsteadiness on the part of the farmer also, who will be easily diverting his activities from the growth of sugarcane to other commodities. As such the mills will be put to the trouble of closing down their mills for a longer time than it is possible for them to work. It is in the interests of all these, in the interests of the consumers as well as in the interests of the Government, which wants to maintain a steady production of sugar for the purpose of consumers in the country and to avoid imports from other countries, that a Price Fixation Board as suggested in this resolution, and as it is existing in be thought of without any delay.

In the last session when this resolution came up several Members from the Congress side also were anxious to support it. In fact, several Members have signed this resolution before it went to the ballot. But today I do not find them here. I was given an assurance by several Members of the Congress that they will

not only support but also convince and persuade the Government to accept a resolution like this. The resolution is not only innocuous but is also very useful, and I do not think that the Government will enter into any controversy and oppose this resolution. No doubt, there will be some difficulties in working a statutory body like this. But the Government has to face difficulties as long as it holds office, and such difficulties as can be removed safely and easily can be encountered and other difficulties which have to be tackled more carefully and strongly can be dealt like that. By the appointment of a Board like this the Government will be avoiding the headache of trying to please the farmers at every stage. This statutory committee will take the responsibility of fixation of price taking into consideration all the methods of production and the conditions of production. The Government can be a happy body only left with the duty of implementing the decisions made by such a statutory body. I do not think that the Government should find any difficulty in accepting this resolution and, I am sure, if this resolution was discussed in the last session it would have been certainly carried and probably accepted by the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "This House recommends to the Government to undertake legislation at an early date to constitute a Statutory Body for the purpose of fixing Sugar Cane prices, with a view to safe-guard the interests of cane-growers and sugar manufacturers and to promote the production of sugar in India".

Sardar Lal Singh (Ferozepur-Ludhiana): Sir, it is unfortunate that an impression had gone round that this resolution marked No. 2 was not likely to be reached, otherwise, I am certain that quite a large number of M.Ps. would have been present here, because, as my hon. friend has just now said, no less than 50 to 60 M.Ps. had actually signed a requisition for this resolution. I myself had the impression that there will be no time left because I understood from the papers circulated that the time allotted was from 2.30 to 5 P.M. and no less than two hours and 24 minutes were to be taken up by the first resolution. It is just by chance that I happened to come here and enquire. I found that we have been lucky to get this opportunity. But unfortunately I have not been able to even bring my notes, one or two publications from which I had to quote. So, I shall have to, more or less, depend upon memory.

The sugar industry is the second biggest industry of India which involves two crores of cultivators who derive their livelihood from cane cultivation. Sugar mills also employ about lakh and a half people, not only as mill labourers, but also a large number—about 30,000 of them—of university graduates. The total value of sugar produced is about Rs. 200 crores a year. In spite of the fact that this is the second biggest industry of India, I must say that the industry is in a chaotic condition and we cannot feel very proud of it.

Only some years back, sugar used to be sold at Rs. 2 a seer on account of scarcity of sugar. Then, in 1952, there was said to be over-production of sugar, so much so, that the country had to think of export of sugar. Immediately, after that, within the following two or three years, we saw sugar shortage again to the extent that India had to import Rs. 70 crores worth of sugar. Again, this year, we find there is surplus sugar and we are thinking of export. In other words, there is periodicity of over-production, and under-production, and there seems to be no regular plan of development. Furthermore, the gulf of estrangement, suspicion and mistrust is widening day by day between the cane-growers and the millers which is indeed undesirable for the industry and the country as a whole.

[Sardar Lal Singh]

Sir, the cane-growers feel that they are not getting a fair deal. I may give three or four instances only to illustrate the point of view of the cane-growers. First of all, in all other countries, the cultivators are rewarded for responding to the call of their nation for increased production. But it is quite the opposite here in India. I have already said that some 8-9 years back sugar used to be sold at Rs. 2 a seer but in 1952, thanks to the efforts of the cane-growers in increasing cane production and also, I must say, through the efforts of the State Governments, India became a surplus in sugar What was the result? The price of cane was suddenly reduced and cane growers were thus penalized. Instead of Rs. 1-12-0 the price that prevailed in the preceding year, it was reduced to Rs. 1-3-0 for out-centres and Rs. 1-5-0 for gate. It was a reduction of about 30 per cent. No amount of protests by the cane-growers, or advice by the States, or warning by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee (which was the highest body at that time dealing with the industry) against cut in cane price proved of any avail. The Government went ahead and reduced the price. What was the result? The result was that in the following two years, sugar production went down. Although the cane-growers suffered, the consumers also suffered. The Government had reduced the price of sugarcane on the plea that sugar would become available to the public at cheaper rates, but the sugar was not sold at cheaper rate. It was sold actually at a higher price than even before the cut, on the cane price was applied. So, not only the cane-growers but also the consumers suffered. The country suffered, because of heavy import of sugar worth seventy crores and we had to sacrifice foreign exchange which is so badly needed in these days. Even sugar mills remained idle owing to the shortage of cane.

The second example is in regard to the share of the cane-growers in the price of sugar which our Government had recently fixed and which turned out to be very much lower than what it should have been. For instance, from 1946-1952 the prices of cane and sugar were fixed by Government cane prices being Rs. 2 per maund for the first year, Rs. 1-10-0 for the second, Rs. 1-10-0 again for the third, Rs. 1-12-0 for the fourth and Rs. 1-12-0 again for the fifth year. According to this, the share of the cane-growers worked out to 65 to 71 per cent. But Government, without any reason or rhyme, fixed the share of the cane-growers at 53 to 60 per cent only. When we in this Parliament protested, an expert committee was appointed to go into this matter, and we have yet to see the outcome of the labours of that committee.

Then again, when Government found in 1952-53 that the mills had made tremendous profits at the expense of the cane-grower because of the cut in cane price, Government felt obliged to announce that cane-growers would get some share in the profit. Again, a committee was appointed and we know the sad outcome of that committee. Many of the sugar mills have not paid any share to the cane-growers and some of them have paid just a nominal amount.

It is interesting that while millers were all the time crying, advocating and pressing the Government to bring about a cut in cane price, they themselves were reaping heavy profits. The All-India Cane-growers' Federation has just published a booklet—its annual number, (only yesterday) in which it gives the present state of sugar industry and the profits that are being made or that have been made during the last few years by many sugar mills. It is interesting to know that Hyderabad State Mill, which is a State concern and had therefore nothing to conceal from the public, showed a net profit of over Rs. 36 lakhs in 1951-52 and over Rs. 48 lakhs of profits in 1952-53, excluding over Rs. 8 lakhs which was

paid as managing agency charges. In other words, almost a crore of rupees was declared as profit in two years by this mill. At the same time, this sugar mill has got its own sugarcane farm, supplying cane to the factory. On the cultivation side, this factory had to show a deficit of about Rs. 2 lakhs, even though this mill paid two annas per maund more for the cane given to the mill, over and above the price fixed by Central Government. That shows the economics of cane-growing and the profits of the sugar factories. Similarly in this booklet that the All India Cane-growers' Federation has published, you will find that a large number of sugar mills had regularly been paying a dividend of 25 to 33 per cent year by year. On the one hand, the sugar mills had been declaring such heavy dividends and on the other hand, there has been a constant cry for cut in cane-price why? Because the poor cane-grower cannot have his voice heard. He is disorganised and there is no great force in his protests.

Now a word about linking of cane price with the recovery of sugar. As soon as there was extra production of cane, the sugar mills came forward with the plea, which Government readily accepted, that the price of cane crushed after 1st May, should be linked up with the recovery of sugar. This has caused immense havoc among the cane-growers. It will surprise you to know that cane-growers of Jagadhri Sugar Factory had received last year cane price on 40 per cent. of their cane supply according to the sugar recovery, because 40 per cent. of the sugarcane was crushed after 1st May. The cane-grower is penalised if there is a fall in sugar recovery, but he is given no credit when the sugar recovery is higher than normal such as in the months of January, February or March. In the case of the Jagadhri factory, whereas all parties got their pound of flesh, it was only the cane-grower who was penalised. For instance, the State got its cane cess cent per cent regardless of the time when the cane was crushed; the Central Government also got its full excise duty regardless of the time when the cane was crushed; the staff got employment for a longer period and even bonuses. The sugar mill, which had to pay the price of cane according to the sugar recovery, did not have to lose anything, but actually benefited because of the longer working season. It was only the cane-grower who was made the sacrificial goat. This is the kind of treatment that the cane-grower is getting.

Apart from this, while the cane-grower is paid price for his cane depending upon sugar recovery, he has no right to ascertain that the calculations made by the sugar mills are correct in this regard. In fact, he is not even allowed to enter the mill and see that the calculation or figure of recovery is not manipulated. In some cases, the sugar mills have got the audacity to say that cane-growers have not got the right to see whether the cane is being properly weighed or not.

I have not got the time to go into all the grievances of the cane-growers, but they are numerous. In any case, the cane-growers feel that they are not getting fair treatment. Accordingly, the cane-growers in the annual conference of the All-India Cane-growers Federation in U.P. about two months back, passed a resolution demanding the creation of a statutory board called the Price Fixation Board more or less on the same lines as it exists in Australia. Ever since the Price Fixation Board was created in Australia about 40 years back, there has been no serious trouble whatsoever between the cane-growers and the mill-owners. There has been smooth working and complete understanding between both, because, as my hon. friend just said, the cane-growers are represented adequately on that board. There is one representative of the cane-grower and one representative of the sugar mill, the President being no less a person than a Judge of the Supreme

[Sardar Lal Singh]

Court. In case at any time a Judge of the Supreme Court is not the President, then the person appointed cannot be removed for 15 years except by an adverse vote of the Parliament, because they want this board to function independently and not be under the influence of anybody. Why is it so? It is because those countries have realised that it is too much of a power or patronage to be given to any one person, no matter how saintly or high he may happen to be, because, after all, we are all human beings and prone to human weakness. We should realise what price fixation means. A more reduction of one anna per maund in cane price means Rs. 3½ crores additional profit to mill-owners. Moreover, the cut in the price has not been of the order of one anna but as it happened in 1952; the cut was of the order of 9 annas, so that you can realise what it means to reduce the price by a few annas. It means putting so many crores of rupees into the pockets of the mill-owners.

Similarly, the price of sugar is fixed on a certain recovery basis. Recently it had been fixed on the basis of 9·6 per cent. recovery of sugar from cane. Those of you who understand this industry know that some of the factories in India are getting not 9·6 per cent., but 11 or 11½ per cent. It has been estimated that a mere difference of :1 per cent., not 1 per cent., in calculation by device, manipulation or mistake in the case of an average factory means a clear additional profit of Rs. 1 lakh. In other words, if a factory obtains 1 per cent. more than the basis of calculation, there is a clear profit of Rs. 10 lakhs in the case of an average factory. In the case of some factories with larger crushing capacity, it may mean even Rs. 30 lakhs clear additional profit. So, you can realise what price fixation means. A slight error or a slight manipulation on the part of one party or the other can mean a difference of crores or tons of crores of rupees. Would you not realise that this is a responsibility which cannot and ought not to be entrusted to a single person—a Secretary or anybody else, apart from the fact that they have not got the experience and price fixation requires very detailed expert knowledge? Further, somebody has rightly said that it is not enough to do justice; it is equally important that the concerned parties should feel that justice is being done to them. Therefore, the cane-growers demand that not only justice should be done, but they should be made to feel that justice is being done to them. This is possible only if there is a statutory body called the Price Fixation Board, more or less on the lines as it exists in other countries.

As my hon. friend has just said, Government should have no objection whatsoever to this, because they should be jolly glad to get rid of this headache of price fixation. There will be no accusation of patronage or favouritism by one party or the other. There will be no corrupting influence either by the sugar mills or by the cane-growers, although the latter can hardly approach anybody. So, I am certain that if such a board is created, it will lead to purity in our public life. I can hope, this resolution would not be opposed by the mills also because, on this Board, there will be a representative of the millers also, so that, they can have their effective voice. At any rate, what is this Board going to do?

This Board of three people will have under them, experts to advise them who will go through the cost of production of cane; they will also go through the cost of manufacture of sugar. They will study the whole matter thoroughly and then come to certain decisions. Both the public and cane growers will feel convinced that justice is being done.

This Board in Australia has been functioning, as I said, for the last 40 years. I had an opportunity to actually attend the proceedings of this Board. The cane growers are authorised to bring every kind of dispute before this Board, whether the dispute related to the cost of production of cane or the cost of manufacture of sugar or

method of determining the percentage of sugar recovery or even weighment of the cane. All kinds of complaints can be brought before this Board. They are amicably settled, and as a result, there has been little bad blood between millers and growers in Australia. The sugar industry of Australia at present is easily the best organized industry in the world. They have got sugarcane which gives the highest percentage of sugar although they got their cane from India. One of the parent varieties actually was taken from India. It is because of the co-operation that exists between the cane growers and mill owners that so much progress has been possible. I am certain that once this Board is brought into existence, here also, all sorts of misunderstandings and all sorts of mistrust, suspicion and bad blood which exists at present and which is increasing day by day, would be removed. So, I appeal that this Resolution be readily accepted by the Government.

I support the Resolution.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Meerut Distt. —South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I gladly associate myself with the Resolution and emphasise with the full force at my command that such a resolution should be accepted.

The question is this. Situated as we are, particularly with regard to the peasantry, things cannot be allowed to drag on as they do. The standard of life of the common people must be raised. One of the money crops, in fact, the only money crop that the peasant has sugarcane. Therefore, anything done with regard to more production and better production of sugarcane and better price thereof would certainly add to the standard of life of the peasant, and will create more avenues of employment. This will go a great way to solve one of the most difficult problems facing the country today. It is not an easy matter; nor is it an insignificant question. It is an important matter and also a difficult matter. Anyhow, it has to be faced: it has to be dealt with.

I do not think there can be any difficulty in setting up a Price Board and avoiding the discontent and resentment of the cane growers. As my hon. friend who knows so much about sugarcane has said that in Australia the parties have done much better, we can see in that light if we can do better also. The gur industry is resorted to in areas where facilities of sugar mills are not available. As there is not much scope for development of yield, the gur industry cannot be allowed to go on as more and more sugar mills are set up. If this development is to be made possible, and things are expected to go well, I think it is necessary that more scientific and more satisfactory measures should be taken. It is one of such measures that this Price Board be established so that the peasant may be more contented and may get a fairer deal, so that he may produce better and more, so that he may have an opportunity to improve his standard of living and also help the Government in the solution of the unemployment problem, by building up schools, hospitals and so many other amenities. I think this is a significant question and a very important question that a Price Board be established. I do not think the Government will have any difficulty in accepting this proposal.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, while supporting this Resolution, I want to point out three things. First, even if the Government do not accept the proposal for a Board, they should take necessary steps to look after the interests of the peasants on the points that I am going to make. You won't believe it, some of the mill owners actually cheat the peasants in weighment. I know of one mill where they have consistently cheated and the whole thing came out when the partners were quarrelling over the stolen money. Actually they deceived in weighment and that was calculated separately. Now, they are quarrelling over the stolen money. Secondly, in some mills there is this test of sugar yield. Of course, it is a very desirable thing that it is properly done. The cane grower must get according to the sugar

[Dr. Rama Rao]

yield of the cane. That has got to be regularised and standardised. Unless the mill is state-owned or is a co-operative sugar factory, in the ordinary course, the poor ignorant peasant is at the mercy of the mill owner. He cannot say anything whether it is 9 per cent or 9·5 per cent. In these two matters, the Government even now must take care to see that there is some vigilance to protect the interests of the peasants.

Thirdly, I want to refer to the patronage by the sugar mills: discrimination. The rush for selling sugarcane to the mills is so great that the peasants are to compete with each other. Some sugar mills discriminate against certain persons and favour only particular persons by taking cane or refusing to take cane. In these matters, the Government must set up some machinery to regularise these things. If they accept a Board, the functions of the Board must be sufficiently broad to include all these minor points just as my hon. friend Sardar Lal Singh has mentioned. All the complaints of the peasants must be allowed to be brought before the Board. Even now, before the Board comes into existence, or even if the Government do not accept it, the Government must set up some machinery to look after the interests of the peasants.

16.59 HRS.

[SHRI BARMAN *in the Chair*]

With these words I support the Resolution of my hon. friend Shri Ramachandra Reddi.

Mr. Chairman: Shall I call the hon. Minister?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Sir, obviously this Resolution of Shri Ramachandra Reddi is the outcome of the report submitted by the delegation that we had sent to Australia to study the sugar industry there and report to the Government of India. I would like to state that it is a well balanced report. There are very useful suggestions in it which the Government want to adopt in dealing with the sugar industry in this country.

17 HRS.

But regarding the constitution of this Board, we sent these recommendations after careful study to the concerned States. The major sugarcane growing States in India feel that the existing system is quite satisfactory, that the present system should be continued.

Also, we know that calculating the cost of production of sugarcane is not such a simple thing. It is very complicated. It has got relationship with other alternative crops in the country. While fixing the price of sugarcane we have to take into account various things—the cost of agricultural produce in the country, the alternative crops, the consumers' interests and lastly the sugar industry, which is most important, as it has to increase production to meet the increasing requirements of the country.

After going carefully into this report, the State Governments have recommended that the existing system is satisfactory. Under the existing system we do not fix the price on an *ad hoc* basis. We take into consideration the recommendations of the State Governments, the expert bodies and the Central Sugarcane Committee and the growers' interests.

Sardar Lal Singh: May I know which of the States have given this recommendation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The major sugarcane growing States, U.P. and Bombay. They feel that the existing system should continue. And we know 50 per cent. of the sugar is produced in U.P., 10 per cent in Bombay and the rest in South India. So, the major growing States in India feel that the existing system is working all right and that it should continue.

Sardar Lal Singh: Is it not true that the U.P. State Cane Growers' Organisation which comprises 16 lakhs of cane growers, which is a supreme

body, has recommended it, and likewise in the case of Bihar also, the Bihar State Cane Growers' Organisation comprising 3½ lakhs cane growers, has supported it, and that the All-India Cane Growers' Federation has also supported it?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I am telling you the Governments' points of view. After all, they are the Governments of the major sugarcane growing States in India, and they are of the opinion that the existing system should continue. They feel at present it is very difficult to conceive of any other system than the present system. That is the opinion of the State Governments. Of course, various bodies recommend various things and they should be taken into consideration.

Sardar Lal Singh: I am not speaking of the other States. I am speaking only of U.P. and Bihar cane growers.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I am telling you the opinion of the State Governments of Bombay and U.P. They feel that the existing system should continue. That is what they feel.

Taking into consideration all these factors, we feel at present there is no necessity for a new body. As the State Governments feel that the existing system is all right, I request Shri Ramachandra Reddi to withdraw his resolution.

Shri Ram Chandra Reddi: I have got a word to say.

I was very much disappointed with the answer of the Government. I thought if the Central Government were convinced of the usefulness of the report of this committee which went to Australia and Indonesia, and of the utility of a Board like this, they would have pressed their opinion upon the State Governments, however large cane growers they might be. This is a simple matter brought before the House for the acceptance of the Government, and I thought the Central Government, at any rate, in order to avoid future troubles and difficulties, would have been good enough to accept this resolution, or at least to have given an assurance that it will be further examined and if possible adopted in due course.

It is a pity that none of the representatives of U.P. and Bihar is available here to give his view. At any rate, my friend Pandit K. C. Sharma who belongs to U.P. has given his opinion.

Unfortunately, the Government has taken up an attitude which does not seem to be satisfactory to the cane growers at all. I would therefore request you to put it to the vote of the House.

Mr. Chairman: So, I put the resolution to the vote of the House.

Shri M. K. Moitra (Calcutta North-West): There is no quorum.

Mr. Chairman: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum.

The question is:

> "This House recommends to the Government to undertake legislation at any early date to constitute a Statutory Body for the purpose of fixing Sugar Cane prices, with a view to safe-guard the interests of cane growers and sugar manufacturers and to promote the production of sugar in India."

The resolution was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The next resolution is that of Shri S. C. Samanta. He is absent. Shri B. K. Das is authorised to move it. I find he is also absent So, it falls through.

The next resolution stands in the name of Shri Krishnacharya Joshi. He is also absent. So, the business is finished. The House is adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

17.09 HRS.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday the 23rd March, 1957.

[*Friday, 22nd March, 1957*]

COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE. 377—78

The following papers were laid on the Table :

(1) A copy of the statement of cases in which lowest tenders have not been accepted by the Indian Store Department, London, during the year ended the 31st December, 1956.

(2) A copy of the Report of the Aluminium Committee.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA . . 378

Secretary reported a message from Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha had passed the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill.

BILL PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA LAID ON THE TABLE 379

Secretary laid on the Table the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

REPORTS OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE PRESENTED . . 379

Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Reports were presented.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS . . 379

The Speaker informed Lok Sabha that the following Members had resigned their seats in Lok Sabha with effect from the dates mentioned against their names :

(1) Dr. Edward Paul Mathuram — 21st March 1957 (Forenoon)

COLUMNS

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS—*contd.*

(2) Shri Debeswar Sarmah — 21st March, 1957 (Afternoon).

BILLS INTRODUCED . . 379—81

(1) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill
(2) The Appropriation Bill
(3) The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill
(4) The Kerala Appropriation Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION . . 381—471

General discussion on the General Budget was continued. The discussion was not concluded.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED 471

Sixty-eighth Report was adopted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION NEGATIVED . . 472—506

(1) Further discussion on Resolution *re* Nationalisation of Tea Industry was concluded and the Resolution was negatived.

(2) Shri Ramachandra Reddi moved the Resolution *re* Statutory Body for fixation of Sugar Cane Prices. After discussion the Resolution was negatived.

AGENDA FOR SATURDAY 23RD MARCH, 1957 .

Consideration of Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1957; Appropriation Bill, 1957; Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1957, and Kerala Appropriation Bill, 1957 and also General discussion on General Budget.